

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Saturday, 15th December 1923.

The House met at 11 o'clock, the Deputy President (the hon. Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI) in the Chair.

I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No. 15—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions and answers shall be arranged in order of subjects.

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in the order in which the names are printed, specify the serial numbers of his questions, and make a sufficient pause to allow him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

Muhammadan representation among Honorary Registrars of Co-operative Societies.

51 Q.—Mr. K. ABDUL HYE SAHIB: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state the number of appointments of Honorary Registrars of Co-operative Societies made during the past one year in the Ceded Districts and how many of them were given to Muhammadans?

A.—During the Co-operative year 1922-23 ten gentlemen were appointed Honorary Assistant Registrars in the Ceded Districts, of whom one was a Muhammadan. During the current year thirteen have been appointed, of whom one is a Muhammadan.

EMPIRE EXHIBITION.

British Empire Exhibition.

52 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the amount of expenditure so far incurred by the Madras Government on account of the British Empire Exhibition of 1924;

(b) the amount of expected future expenditure on the same account; and

(c) the names of the articles manufactured in the Madras Presidency which are to be exhibited in the Madras Court of the Exhibition?

A.—(a) Rupees 55,461-7-6.

(b) Rupees 2,53,038-8-6 so far as it can be estimated at present.

(c) A list of exhibits, including articles manufactured in the Madras Presidency about which exhibitors have so far furnished detailed information, is appended.*

* Vide Appendix on page 506 infra.

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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ With reference to the answer to (b), Sir, may I ask the Minister for Development to be good enough to say what portion of the amount of Rs. 2,53,038-8-6 represents existing liabilities in connexion with the exhibition and how much of it exhibits future liabilities he contemplates ? ”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—“ I want notice of the question, Sir. The figures have to be worked out.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ May I ask him just one more question, Sir, whether it is his intention to accept the Resolution of the House and not incur further liabilities in connexion with the British Empire Exhibition ? ”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—“ It will be considered in due course.”

FAMINE CONDITION.

Alleged famine conditions in Cuddapah district.

53 Q.—Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that famine conditions prevail in most parts of the Cuddapah district owing to the failure of the last monsoon ?

A.—The Government have not yet received any report of such conditions.

HIGH COURT.

Muhammadan High Court Judge.

54 Q.—Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB : Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state whether the Government intend to appoint a Muhammadan in the earliest vacancy on the Madras High Court Bench ?

A.—Permanent appointments to the High Court are made by His Majesty. Acting appointments are made by the Local Government. The Local Government will pay due consideration to the claims of qualified Muhammadan gentlemen.

REVENUE DIVISIONS.

Abolition of the Cuddapah district.

55 Q.—Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether the Government have passed final orders on the proposal to abolish the Cuddapah district ?

A.—The Government have passed orders in G.O. No. 1731, dated the 24th November 1923, abandoning the proposal to abolish the Cuddapah district and the Government Order has been placed on the Editors' Table.

UNIVERSITY CORPS.

Head-dress of the volunteers of the University Training Corps.

56 Q.—Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the volunteers of the University Corps have been directed to wear hats instead of caps or turbans ; and if the answer be in the affirmative, whether it is intended to remove the direction and substitute in its stead individual option ?

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A.—Members of the University Corps are allowed to wear either hats, topis or turbans, provided that all members of the Corps wear the same kind of head-dress. The Advisory Committee consisting of two Indians recommended the topi, which is also the most popular head-dress with the men.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

President, District Board, Tinnevely.

56-A Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the hon. the Minister for Development still continues to be the President of the Tinnevely District Board ; and

(b) whether he will call on the hon. the Minister for Development to resign his place as President of the Tinnevely District Board ?

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ Sir, the answer to (a) is in the negative. To (b) the answer is that it does not arise.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ When did he cease to be the president of the district board ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ A few days back.”

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—“ Is it a fact that he continued to be the president of the district board even after becoming the Minister for Development ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ Yes.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ For how many days ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ I think he sent in his resignation on the 13th. That is my recollection.”

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—“ The resignation will have to be formally accepted by the Board and till then he continues to be there, Sir. Is that not so ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ Yes.”

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—“ Has his resignation been so accepted ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ I have no information.”

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—“ Is it a fact that he has to simply present his application and that it need not be accepted by them ? ”

No answer.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ Is that at a meeting of the Board, Sir ? ”

No answer.

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APPENDIX.

[Vide Answer to Question No. 52 asked by Mr. S. Satyamurti at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 15th December 1923, page 503 supra.]

List of Exhibits going forward to the Madras Court of the British Empire Exhibition.

I.—*Raw Materials.*

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| <p>(1) Foodstuffs—
Rice.
Paddy.
Cereals.
Pulses.
Edible roots.
Yams.
Tapioca.
Coconut.
Cashewnut.
Coriander.</p> <p>(2) Oil-seeds—
Ground-nut.
Castor-seed.
Linseed.
Annato seed.
Kusumalu.
Sarapappu.</p> | <p>(3) Fibres—
Cotton.
Jute.
Palmy a.
Date.
Pulichai
Coir.
Aloe.</p> <p>(4) Planting products—
Tea and coffee.
Rubber.</p> <p>(5) Spices—
Pepper.
Cardamoms.
Cinnamon.
Nutmegs.
Kuss-kuss.
Chillies.
Omum.</p> |
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II.—*Food Industries.*

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| <p>(1) Preserved fish.
Salt fish pickle.
Prawn pickle.
Preserved fruits.</p> <p>(2) Jaggery and sugar—
Jaggery.
Refined sugar.
Megasse.</p> <p>(3) Sweets.</p> <p>(4) Rice products.</p> | <p>(5) Plantain products.</p> <p>(6) Edible oils—
Cocotine.
Margarine.
Kusumalu oil.</p> <p>(7) Copra.</p> <p>(8) South Indian condiments.</p> <p>(9) Pappadams.</p> <p>(10) Cereal food.</p> |
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III.—*Fishery products.*

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| <p>Fish curing.
Fishing methods and boats.</p> | <p>Pearl fishing methods.
Chank fishing methods.
Chief edible fishes.</p> |
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IV.—*Textile Industries.*

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| <p>(1) Cotton—
A. Yarns—
 (i) Mill made.
 (ii) Handspun of different colours.
B. Fabrics—
 (i) Mill made.
 (ii) Handwoven—
 (1) Bedsheets.
 (2) Cloths.
 (3) Madras Handkerchiefs.
 (4) Lungies and Rumals.
 (5) Sarees.
 (6) Towels.
 (7) Muslins.
 (8) Carpets.
 Plain and special designs.</p> <p>(2) Silk—
Waste.
Silk carpet.
Silk sarees.
Silk cloths.
Bodices.</p> | <p>(2) Silk—<i>cont.</i>
Diamond silk.
Silk Rumals.
Silk cummerbands.
Ladies gown, curtain and a table cloth in silk containing inscriptions in gold thread.</p> <p>(3) Wool—
Carpets.
Cumbles.
Handknit stockings.</p> <p>(4) Jute—
Yarn and fabrics.</p> <p>(5) Grass mats—
Kora (sedge).
Date.
Aloe.
Serepene.</p> <p>(6) Coir—
Yarns, mats and matting.
Brushes.</p> |
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V.—Leather Industries.

- (1) Half finished and finished leathers. (2) Leather goods of all descriptions.

VI.—Ores and Metals.

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| <p>(1) Minerals—
 Monozite.
 Barytes.
 Steatite.
 Mica.
 Ruby mica—cut and dressed.
 Kaolin.
 Emery.
 Magnesite.
 Coal.
 Slate.</p> | <p>(1) Minerals—<i>cont.</i>
 Manganese.
 (2) Manufactures—
 Bell-metal.
 Aluminium.
 Mica.
 Brass including locks.
 Ironware including—
 Malabar axe,
 Mopla war knife, and
 Tangi.</p> |
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VII.—Oils, soap, paint and perfumes.

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| <p>(1) Essential oils and perfumes.
 (2) Indian scents including scented incense sticks.
 (3) Soaps.</p> | <p>(4) Industrial oils—
 Fish oil.
 Groundnut oil.
 Castor oil.</p> |
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VIII.—Chemical industries.

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| <p>Salt --Ordinary and refined.
 Arrack :
 Coconut.
 Cashewnut.</p> | <p>Oil cake.</p> |
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IX.—Wood, timber and forest products.

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| <p>(1) Timber specimens—
 Sandalwood.
 East Coast timbers.
 Malabar timbers.
 Furniture made of Madras timbers.
 (2) Pencils.
 (3) Paper made of Megasse.
 (4) Tanning materials.</p> | <p>(5) Drugs and medicines.
 (6) Dyeing materials—
 Indigo.
 Gallnut.
 Turmeric.
 Madder roots.
 Other dyeing materials.
 (7) Other minor forest products.</p> |
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X.—Arts industries.

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| <p>(1) Pictures—
 Paintings.
 Paintings of typical sceneries in Cochin such as the Harbour mouth and the surrounding backwaters; the Cochin forests with the inclines in the tramway.
 (2) Furniture and carving—
 Carved mantapam.
 " table.
 " door frames and doors.
 Square. }
 Oval .. }
 Octa- }
 gonal. }
 Round. } Carved. {
 Ivory }
 inlaid. }</p> | <p>(2) Furniture and carving—<i>cont.</i>
 Carved teapoy of different designs —
 Rosewood.
 Kunnivaka.
 Teak.
 Carved sofa.
 " bench.
 Sette of carved rosewood.
 Carved chairs—
 Green and gold lacquer.
 Black and gold lacquer.
 Ebony.
 Rosewood.
 Gilded with arms representing lions.
 Revolving.
 Armless.
 Carved dinner gong between elephant figures
 Carved dinner gong between human figures.
 Carved cigarette box in sandalwood.
 " " rosewood.</p> |
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X.—Arts industries—cont.

- (2) Furniture and carving—*cont.*
 Carved cigar case.
 „ lamp stand.
 „ flower pot.
 „ tea trays.
 „ wall brackets.
 „ dressing mirror (black and gold lacquer).
 „ hanging wall cabinet (black and gold lacquer).
 Hanging wall cabinet—plain.
 Carved boxes—
 Teakwood and ebony inlaid with ivory.
 Lined with red cedar.
 „ „ silver mounted.
 Carved picture frames in coconut.
 „ „ palmyra.
 „ „ other wood.
 Miniature teak raft.
 Embroidery frame.
 Miniature temple car.
 Carved swing on elephants with ivory nails.
 Exhibits to show finish—
 Roll top desk.
 Revolving chair.
 Foot stool.
 Cabinet.
 Table with and without drawers.
 Arm chair.
 Armless chair.
 Revolving book case.
 Rosewood bedstead with curtain fittings of bell metal and curtains of screw-pine fibre.
 Chest of drawers.
 Dressing table.
 Dressing almirah.
 Washing table.
 Bath tub.
 Towel stand.
 Coconut shell carving—
 Carved spirit case mounted on three dragons with rosewood pedestal.
 Carved cruet set silver lined and with silver spoons.
 Carved flower bowl mounted on three elephants.
 Carved napkin rings.
 Carved gipsy tripods.
 Toys and miscellaneous.
- (3) Toys and pith works—
 Pith turbans.
 Surpanagai Kreedam.
 Kondapalle toys.
 Kampli toys.
 Models of South Indian temples.
 Church view.
 St. Joseph's College view.
 Hindu car.
 Double bullock cart, etc.
- (4) Cotton prints—
 Gollapalam.
 Wax curtains.
- (4) Cotton prints—*cont.*
 Kodali Karuppur.
 Kalahasti.
 Masulipatam.
 Vaniyambadi.
 Cotton prints with gold border.
- (5) Silver and gold work—
 Hookah exquisitely engraved in gold.
 Silver waist girdle.
 Silver and gold thread work. Gopadam-thadu.
 Silver inlaid work—
 Octagonal plate.
 Circular plate.
 Square plate.
 Bowl (big).
 „ (small).
 „ (smaller).
 Ash tray.
 Match case.
 Silver vessel (chombu) on stand with Dasavatharam of Maha Vishnu engraved.
 Kailasagiri Parvatham.
 Engraved silver plate.
 Sandal pela with Krishna figure.
 Do. animals.
 Flower vases.
 Betel nut box with animal design.
 Engraved rosewater sprinkler.
 Betel-leaf box.
 One set of deity figures.
 Bowl with cover.
 Sandal paste cup.
 Lamp.
 Chunam box.
 Chembu.
 Box.
 Bowl.
 Wine vessel.
 Anklets.
 Wine cup.
 Coffee pot.
 Milk jug.
 Silver-ware.
 Baskets.
 Sticks.
 Brushes, etc.
 Silver-ware (Miscellaneous).
 Silver and brass work—
 Brass ball with an oil lamp inside.
 Brass box with Seshasayanam.
 Ganjam brass fishes.
 Silver poochies.
 Old brass articles.
 Coconut shell carving inlaid with silver and brass work.
 Brass centre-piece electro-plated in silver, gold and a portion oxidised.
 Metallic wings.
 Flower pot in brass.
 Horse in brass.
 Bee in brass.
 Camel in brass.
 Carrying basket in brass.
 Cow in brass.

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X.—Arts industries—cont.

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| <p>Silver and brass work—<i>cont.</i>
 Snake in brass.
 Tumblers in brass (new model).
 Ice tumblers in brass.
 Lamp in brass.
 Brass water pot.
 Brass tray.
 Bell metal work—
 Looking glass made of bell metal.</p> <p>(6) Ivory work—
 Gajalakshmi.
 Toys.
 Looking glass mounted on tusks.
 Miscellaneous.</p> <p>(7) Bronze and brass images—
 of all kinds.</p> <p>(8) Art pottery—
 Feather-weight pottery.
 Earthen images.</p> | <p>(8) Art pottery—<i>cont.</i>
 A complete set of Cochin pottery, including—
 Washing basin.
 Tobacco jar.
 Ash tray.
 Jars.
 Crockery.
 Coloured kooja.
 Flower pot.
 Fashioned koojas.
 Small coloured cups and jars.</p> <p>(9) Jewellery—
 Modern.
 Ancient, including gems and seal ring of Shahjehan.</p> <p>(10) Lacquer work—
 Trays.
 Fans.
 Boxes.
 Walking sticks.
 Pens, and of all kinds.</p> |
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XI.—Building and Engineering Trades.

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| <p>(1) Machinery—
 Motor cylinders.
 Match-box making machinery.</p> <p>(2) Cement—
 Oxy-chloride cement and flooring and roofing tiles therewith.</p> <p>(3) Bricks and tiles—
 Flooring and roofing.</p> | <p>(4) Stoneware and earthenware—
 Dasavatharams.
 Hanuman.
 Glazed earthenware of Karigari.
 Shirt buttons and links with silver joints.
 Chessmen.
 Katukakayalu.</p> |
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XII.—Village and Mission Industries.

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| <p>Lace and Chikan work of all kinds—
 Crochet.
 Fillet.
 Pillow.</p> <p>Embroidery—
 European designs.
 Madras embroidery.</p> <p>Fancy baskets and other miscellaneous work—
 Pulicat baskets.
 Ceiling cloth of grass.
 Brief bags.</p> | <p>Fancy baskets and other miscellaneous work—
 <i>cont.</i>
 Trays.
 Waste paper basket.
 Flower baskets and betel-leaf boxes.
 Needle-work.
 Teapoy cover in bead work.
 Rice grains with inscriptions.
 Chair made of paddy.
 Malabar hats.</p> |
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XIII.—Statistical.

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| <p>Map of the Madras Presidency.
 Models—
 of Madras Harbour.
 of Cochin Harbour.
 of Tuticorin Harbour.
 of agricultural operations.
 of fishing.
 of boats.
 of nets.
 of canoes.
 of catamaran, etc.</p> | <p>Models—<i>cont.</i>
 of a Post and Telegraph office.
 of huts of hill tribes.
 of elephant capturing operations.
 of Cantlever bridge.
 of Saw Mill at Mount Stuart.
 of rest-house.
 of Toda temple.
 of Toda hut.
 of a Malabar house.
 of a Malabar temple.</p> |
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XIV.—Miscellaneous.

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| <p>Buffalo horns and tips.
 Ivory and horns of wild animals.
 Cigars and cheroots.
 Smoking mixtures.
 Tobacco.</p> | <p>Sporting materials.
 Playing cards.
 Publications—
 Madras Mail Annual.
 Asylum Press Almanack.</p> |
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II

HOUSE COMMITTEE.

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"I have to announce for the information of the Council that the hon. the President has made the following nominations in regard to the House Committee:—

- (1) Rao Bahadur C. Natesa Mudaliyar.
- (2) Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao.

III

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL.

The SECRETARY laid on the table * G.O. No. 55, Railway, dated 10th December 1923, regarding the election of two representatives of the Legislative Council to the Local Advisory Committee for the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway.

III-A

The SECRETARY laid on the table † Report of the Retrenchment Committee, Volumes I and II.

IV

MOTION ON A MATTER OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

SUSPENSION OF THE ENHANCED RATE OF LAND REVENUE IN THE TANJORE DISTRICT.

The discussion on Motion No. 12‡ moved by Mr. S. Muttayya Mudaliyar was then resumed.

Mr. C. MARUTHAVANAM PILLAI:—Sir, in supporting the Resolution moved by my hon. Friend Mr. Muttayya Mudaliyar I wish to make a few observations on the land revenue settlement in the Madras Presidency generally, and in the Tanjore district particularly. Sir, ever since the Munro Settlement of this Province, which denied to us the great blessings that Lord Cornwallis conferred upon the fortunate people of Bengal, it is needless to say what amount of worry, inconvenience and loss has been caused to both the rich and poor ryots of Madras by the system of resettlement at the end of every thirty years. Imagine for one moment the uncertainty that the ryots are suffering under, as regards the return of their investments in the lands, when on the mere suspicion of an increased yield, they are made to bear an increase in assessment. This process of the increase of land revenue at every resettlement is harsh; and from all appearances no great pains seem to have been taken to investigate into the actual ability or otherwise of the ryots to pay the increased taxation. The increase of 25 per cent of the land kist ordered to be levied upon the ryots of Tanjore bears ample testimony to the above remarks. The basis for this increase is not properly worked out. The soil of Tanjore district is no virgin soil. Years of cultivation has reduced its productive power and any amount of artificial manuring cannot restore the original fertility. That the maximum

* Appendix (vide pages 554—557 infra).

† Printed separately.

‡ 12. That this Council recommends to the Government that the collection of land revenue at the enhanced rate in the Tanjore district from January 1924 be suspended for one year at least till the principles of land revenue settlement are embodied in legislation.

SUSPENSION OF THE ENHANCED RATE OF LAND REVENUE IN THE 511
TANJORE DISTRICT

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point of production has been reached in the case of lands in the Tanjore district is a fact and any further increase in the land revenue cannot be but a gross injustice and bring excessive hardship to bear upon the ryots of the district. Add to this the fall in the price of paddy, the failure of the monsoon, the occasional droughts, the unseasonal rains, the scarcity of water-supply in the Cauvery that is sure to result out of the Kannambadi scheme, the increased cost of the necessities of life, the payment of higher wages for cultivation, the increased cost of manuring and a thousand other causes all of which tend only to aggravate the ryots' indebtedness and misery. Then the Government, however apathetic it may happen to be, cannot with any amount of conscience dare to crush down the Tanjore landholders with any more increased taxation the summit of which has already been reached by the previous settlement.

"It is on these grounds I presume that the previous House passed by a majority the Permanent Settlement Bill which, it is understood, the Government do not mean to take up. It behoves us therefore to reintroduce that measure in due time.

"As we all know, Sir, the Government have decided not to give effect to the Bill in the near future. I am sure the present House will again take up that question in due time. But before anything is done on a permanent and legislative basis, to force upon the ryots' slender means an additional 25 per cent of Land Revenue is not only unfair and unjust but also very cruel and oppressive.

"Just a word more and I shall finish. Several of the hon. Members of this House seem to be labouring under a misnomer that the district of Tanjore is incomparably fertile and as such the recent increase is justifiable. While admitting mainly the truth of the statement, I would only point out that the rates of assessment since the *paimash* days are equally higher, reaching up to even Rs. 15 per acre in some cases. I therefore beg to support the Resolution which I am sure you will accept by a large majority and do bare justice to the already overburdened mirasidars of the Tanjore district."

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR:—"Mr. Deputy President, the other day when a similar Motion was moved by the hon. Member, Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, my hon. Friend Mr. Siva Rao gave a history of the whole subject as to how a committee was appointed to consider the lines on which the Land Revenue Bill should be drafted, how that Committee thought that its recommendations should be embodied in the Land Revenue Bill, how in the meantime the question of permanent settlement had to be postponed, and how the undertaking given by the Government that a Land Revenue Bill would be introduced had not been given effect to. We had the opportunity of hearing the recommendations of the Decentralization Commission read out to us by more than one hon. Member. Sir, when a Motion was introduced by my hon. Friend Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, we expected that something good would come out of it. But, Sir, our recommendations were put an end to when the hon. the Home Member said clearly that there was no room for us to think that the introduction of the permanent settlement would be considered with any favour by the Central Government."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"May I correct the hon. Member, Sir? I did not say anything about the Central Government. What I said was that there was no prospect of the Local Government introducing such legislation in the near future."

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MR. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—“ I think, Sir, it comes to the same thing. Whatever it may be, with regard to the recommendation of the Decentralization Commission, that legislation with regard to matters of taxation should be gradually introduced, the hon. the Home Member told us that four years' time was too early to think of such a thing, and went to the extent of saying that the recommendations framed by a Committee last year, that the settlement rates should obtain the sanction of the Legislature before they were introduced, were revolutionary. He also told this House that the settlement rates depended upon a contract with the Government and that, as soon as a thirty years' period was over, the Government were at liberty to introduce the resettlement rates, though he gave an undertaking—I think it is a poor undertaking—that he would consider the conditions of the respective district and make necessary remission. Most of us, Sir, represent the ryots in the districts; we know the conditions of the ryots; their conditions have not been improved. We know that the yield of the land has not increased in any way. At the same time, the other day a few facts and figures were quoted to us comparing one district with another, and it was sought to impress upon us that the condition of the ryots had improved, and the yield of the land was increasing. But we the Members coming from different districts know what the real condition of the ryots is. In these circumstances, I think there is only one course open to us and that is to join in a united body in supporting the Resolution that has been placed before the House, and I hope that many more Motions like this will be brought forward, and that the House with one united voice will support them also. If we do so, I hope a way will be opened for us, though not for the introduction of the permanent settlement, at least to have the recommendations framed last year embodied in the Land Revenue Bill.”

MR. VENKATARAMA AYYAR alias V. PANTULU AYYAR :—“ Mr. Deputy President, when we whole-heartedly and unanimously passed the resolution for the postponement of resettlement in the Bellary district, I was under the impression—and I think I am right—that we were fighting for a principle and not for the sake of Bellary alone. If a series of unfavourable seasons intervene, Bellary is entitled only to remission for that year or for those years when the crops fail and no legislation would have been necessary. When in this House a victory has been gained in Bellary it was a victory for the principle that there should be no taxation without legislation and so I thought I had no further business on this subject, because what applies to one district—I mean to say with regard to the land tax—equally applies to other districts also. But it seems that our district is unfortunate. It has a very bad reputation (hear, hear! and laughter). The imagination of poets and the erroneous records of the Settlement Department have ascribed to it a fertility which it certainly does not deserve, and I think hon. Members of this House passing along the railway line which runs in the most fertile portion of the district—a portion which contains the most industrious population—the Muhammadans—betel gardens and plantain and coconut topes—have a belief that our district is so fertile that the people have simply to go to the fields, sow the seeds and wait till the time of harvest when they have simply to garner their paddy in their graneries. I may tell the House, Sir, that if you go into the interior a sorry spectacle is presented, especially in recent years after the regulation of the waters of the branch rivers of the river Cauvery, you will find that no silt is carried in those rivers. I think the

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hon. the Home Member said that silt is even now carried. But expert opinion is that a certain amount of velocity is required to carry the silt. Our practical experience is that the water which is carried to the field is not so much for the purpose of fertilizing the fields as for irrigating them. Another point which I wish to mention is that there are only a very few mirasidars in our district who are very rich. But there are more than a hundred thousand mirasidars who are in a very poor condition and who are living from hand to mouth, and any enhancement of tax even in the slightest degree will affect them to a very great extent. I hope this question will not be considered as a party question. It is a question in which a large number of people are affected. As I have already said, hundreds of thousands of people are sure to be affected and I leave it to the justice of the House to consider what the fate of these poor families will be, if the Executive Government is allowed to enhance the tax at their own sweet will and pleasure without having any recourse to legislation.

“ About this resettlement question, I think another argument has been advanced, viz., that there is very little complaint in our district regarding the payment of tax, and that taxes are paid at the first demand. I may tell you, Sir, that the Revenue officials in our district have got their own way of putting things and in this connexion I may quote the proverbial saying ‘that Cauvery water is supposed to give intelligence’ and I may add that it has certainly given acute intelligence in the case of these Revenue officials. With the permission of the House, I shall proceed to cite an instance, Sir, as to how a case was made out where there was an absolute failure of crop. A written petition was sent to the Deputy Collector about the failure of the crops and a demand for remission was made. The Deputy Collector inspected the concerned village and saw that absolutely no crops had been harvested. At that time some of the people thought that an application should be made for clearing the channel next year and under the Kudimaramath Act they sent in a petition to the Deputy Collector for that purpose. The Deputy Collector came to the village for inspecting the lands and I asked him what his opinion of the harvest was. He said ‘yes, Sir, it may be true that the crops have failed absolutely, and I have got a petition asking for remission of tax. There is also another petition with me in which it is stated that the channels have not been cleared and that the people want that channel to be cleared by the department. From this I understand, Sir, that the failure of the crop is due to the channel not being cleared.’ And I may tell you, Sir, further that the channel was cleared and according to the Kudimaramath Act a channel tax was collected from the poor people, so that the people had to pay not only the tax on land but also double the clearing charges according to the Act which levies a penal tax, of which, I think one-sixth would have been spent on the real clearance. These are the ways in which the administration is conducted.

“ It is mentioned in the records that all channels which supply water to
11-30 a.m. over 3,000 acres are under the maintenance of the Public Works Department. Sir, when the channel in the Melattur village which is irrigating over 4,000 acres had to be cleared, the people sent in a petition to the Public Works Department for the purpose saying that that work should be undertaken by that department and that it was not right to ask the ryots to clear it at their own expense. To this petition the Public Works Department was graciously pleased to reply saying that the ryots were

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allowed to clear the channel. Of course, I think if there is an obligation on the part of the ryots to discharge their duties and pay taxes, the Government also has got an obligation towards the ryots which I think they have absolutely failed to fulfil.

“Under the present resettlement, a ryot who holds about two acres and odd and who was paying Rs. 20, is now assessed to pay Rs. 39. So it is not only a 25 per cent increase as some Members stated, but it is very nearly double that of the previous assessment.”

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—“May I know, Sir, if it is single crop or double crop?”

MR. VENKATARAMA AYYAR alias V. PANTULU AYYAR :—“It is single crop. But, on account of the heavy taxation and other expenses, the unfortunate ryot thought that he could double his income by putting double crop. After trying for two years he failed. Because, conditions in our district are such—I am speaking from practical experience—that two crops never succeed. One crop or the other fails generally. So, the unfortunate ryot who tried for two years not only lost much but when the settlement officer visited the area, it was considered that that area was fit for double crop and assessed accordingly by him. Thus, Sir, not only the unfortunate ryot who tried this experiment suffered, but also the people who hold lands in the same block, suffered. Because, the Government think that if one man has been foolish enough to make such an experiment, others must have followed suit and they assess the whole area to double crop. This is the way in which settlement has been carried on. Therefore I think that unless legislation on a sound basis is made in respect of settlement without leaving it to the executive order, the people of our district will suffer. For this reason I call upon this hon. House not to be overcome by the delusion that our district is fabulously fertile, but to have recourse to calm reasoning and to practical facts, viz., that this year just a little before the first crop was about to be harvested, there was such a heavy flood in consequence of which even the railway line was breached which hon. Members might have known—that the first crop was lost, and, as for the second crop, had it not been for a few drops of rain which fell in a favoured area the whole of the district would have been suffering from drought. There is no rain in most parts of the district. Under these circumstances, I think our district is as much entitled as Bellary can be, for the concession asked for, viz., suspension of the enhanced rates for one year till legislation is enacted on land taxes. With these few words, I heartily support the Resolution.”

MR. P. ANJANEYALU :—“Sir, when the Resolution for a similar purpose was brought forward and passed regarding Bellary, I thought that it did not pertain to Bellary alone, that we were not giving that concession to Bellary alone on account of the series of woes catalogued, but that we were enunciating a principle, viz., that we recommended to the Government that the collection of land revenue at the enhanced rates should not be given effect to till the principles of land revenue settlement are embodied in legislation. That I thought was the basic principle though it was applied, in that particular case, to one district only. The hon. the Law Member was calling our attention to the principle of *res judicata* on altogether a different occasion. If I may take advantage of that principle, I would apply it to this case more than to the case he attempted to apply; because, the parties are the same, the ryots on the one side and the Government on the other; the principle is the same and the conclusion should

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also be the same. When once the principle is adopted in the case of Bellary, I think the same principle should be applied in the case of Tanjore, Ganjam, Cuddapah or any other district in this Presidency. In view of this fact and in view of the fact that the Resolution of Mr. Muttayya Mudaliyar only asks in a very modest manner that collection at the increased rate should be suspended for one year only, the whole House including the hon. Members on the other side (Ministerialists' side) should vote for this Resolution as they voted in the case of Bellary."

MR. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Sir, I rise to support this Resolution of my hon. Friend Mr. Muttayya Mudaliyar very strongly. I said in supporting the Resolution of Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar that we ought not to enter into the parlour of the hon. the Law Member and allow district jealousies to be exploited by stating that this district is poor and that is rich and thereby setting one district against another. The whole House practically unanimously voted in favour of that Resolution. I take it, as other Members of this House, I am sure, take it, that we were fighting not for Bellary, but for the assertion of a principle, the principle, viz., that no resettlement proposals ought to be given effect to until this House has approved of the principles of resettlement in the form of sound legislation. Now, Sir, I may remind this House that the hon. the Home Member and the Revenue Secretary put up a very strenuous fight and pointed out to this House that Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar's original Resolution would have met with sympathy at their hands because it referred to the peculiar circumstances of Bellary and Anantapur, but we rejected that plea and voted for the Resolution in favour of the resettlement proposal being postponed; and luckily now, as I view it, within two days the test has come to Members of this House whether in voting for that Resolution we were simply allowing ourselves to be influenced by considerations not germane to the Resolution in the amended form as it stood or whether we were standing for the assertion of the principle, viz., no representation, no taxation or that no tax of this kind ought to be increased or levied without the consent of this House. Sir, I am obliged to the Ministerialist organ *The Justice* of yesterday which says:

'That long before the Joint Committee report of the House of Lords and the House of Commons sat to decide on this question and asked that this revenue settlement principle should be given legislative form, the Decentralization Commission which sat very much earlier have said: we consider that the general principles of assessment such as, for instance, the proportion of the net profit of the land which the Government shall be entitled to take and the period of settlement shall be embodied in a piece of legislation instead of being left to executive order as is now the case outside Bombay.'

"Then the Joint Committee report came on, and four years and a half have elapsed since then. Therefore, Sir, in spite of the opinions of those who are best entitled to speak upon it according to the Government themselves, they have not lifted their little finger to take this settlement out of the hands of the Executive and place it under the control of the Legislature.

"Now, I must confess to some inability, Mr. Deputy President, to understand the position of the Government; either they are ready with this Settlement Bill or they are not. Because, in answer to a question by my hon. Friend Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar, the hon. the Law Member said that among the various Bills that would come up in this Session, the Revenue Settlement Bill was one. If, therefore, this Bill is coming up before this

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House this session, surely the Government cannot have very serious objections to postponing giving effect to this resettlement proposal till after that Bill becomes law. If, on the other hand, the Government have no such intention, let them say so plainly that they have no intention of bringing forward this Bill very early."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"May I make a personal explanation, Sir? I am really astonished at the shortness of my hon. Friend's memory. Either his memory is short or he was not attending to the debates of the other day. I gave a positive assurance that the Bill would be introduced as soon as possible, probably this session. There is no question whatever of Government having no intention of legislating as early as possible. It is only fair that the hon. Member should accept as genuine an undertaking of that kind."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I do accept that undertaking, Sir, and my argument itself is based upon that. If the Government have any such intention, I do not understand their anxiety to prevent this Resolution being carried. The scope of the Resolution of my hon. Friend becomes very limited seeing that there is an assurance from the Government that they will introduce this Bill this session. Why should not the Government wait for some little time and then have the resettlement proposals effectuated."

"Sir, a great deal has been said about the resettlement proposals of Mr. Jackson upon which all these proposals are based. I have nothing but admiration for the comprehensive and exhaustive way in which the settlement officer has gone into the whole question. Surely hon. Members of this House are entitled to criticise that report and advance reasons as to why the Government should not be allowed to carry out the proposals contained therein, to the extent we can."

"The first connected paper to which I believe reference was made already was this: that thirty years ago the land revenue of Tanjore was raised by 29 per cent and, thirty years hence now, the district is asked to pay from 18½ to 25 per cent more. I think it will be conceded on all hands that whatever the reasonableness of the reasons which may be advanced in respect of that may be, the mere arithmetic of it must stagger some of us who know the perpetual poverty in which the majority of the people in Tanjore have to live and have their being. But the Settlement Officer suggested and the Government practically accepted the view that all these increases in the land tax are merely due to the rise in prices. Now, I believe I have heard here and elsewhere this, viz., that the rise in prices is not as high as it used to be, that prices have fallen down and that, therefore, other circumstances must be presumed to have changed. If this is so, it must operate to the detriment also of these tax-payers who are asked to pay these increased taxes. Now, Sir, I would again quote, in spite of the hon. the Home Member's deprecation, Sir O'Moore Creagh. He says in his book: 'The rise in prices is against the agriculturist in nearly every district; in the few cases where some of those who produce for sale might get some advantage, their ignorance prevents them doing so to its full extent.' I would ask the House to take the opinion of Sir O'Moore Creagh also into account before they decide this important matter."

"Now, Sir, one important argument which my hon. Friend advanced and I am sure the House has taken note of, was the argument based on this, viz., that the cultivation expenses were not given sufficient allowance in the proposals made by the Settlement Officer and accepted by the Revenue Board."

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and the Government. On that matter, Sir, I am anxious to invite the attention of the House to the very illuminating remarks of Mr. Dutt who recommended to the Government in very strong terms that the allowances made by Mr. Jackson were not correct and that they ought to be revised.

“ He says :

‘ After his very careful consideration of the subject from many points of view it looks as if Mr. Jackson is after all rather doubtful if his deduction for cultivation expenses is quite adequate. I request the Board that in considering the scheme report special care may be taken to see that for the standard outturns the cultivation expenses allowed in the scheme report are adequate, and if Mr. Jackson’s estimate of cultivation expenses be found to be an underestimate, the suggested rate of increase in the assessment may be decreased.’

“ That was the recommendation made but the Government at page 276 of this report simply turn the whole thing down and say that
11-45 a.m. they must take the original allowances as the final word on the matter.

“ There is one other matter which I want to lay stress upon in this House with all the emphasis that I can command. I am not going into the question whether Tanjore may not be and any other district may be a richer district. But, Sir, I want to say this. Please do not judge Tanjore by the few Tanjore mirasidars whom we have met here and elsewhere. Tanjore is a very big tract of country and at least in two taluks, Arantangi and Pattukkottai, with which I am familiar there is no irrigation system worth mentioning and people have got to depend on the rain or the monsoon which rarely comes there. Apart from that there are at least 65 per cent of the ryots paying less than Rs. 10 on their pattas. It is the case of these unfortunate ryots which I appeal to this House to consider most carefully before voting upon this question. It is not the question of a few rich men being made to pay some more rupees or some less. But the question is whether this House is going to allow the resettlement proposals to affect the lives and happiness of 65 per cent of the Tanjore mirasidars as they are honorifically called. And on this matter I have the very high authority of the Collector of the district who at page 271 in forwarding this report says :

‘ Our settlement rules do not discriminate between big and small ryots, but unless some discrimination is made—’

“ I want the House to mark the words :

‘ in favour of small ryots who have no crops to sell, they will be worse off than they were before ’.

“ I ask the House to consider whether they would be a party to placing 65 per cent of these unfortunate fellow countrymen of theirs in Tanjore, to quote the words of the Collector himself : ‘ in a worse position than they were before ’. That is the first question this Resolution raises. I want this House to give a considered vote upon it. Something should be done, if not to improve, at least not to make worse their condition by increase of assessment. These are not the words of a little fry but the words of a responsible Collector to the Government in regard to this important matter. But Mr. Dutt is an Indian. I should mention to this House, Mr. Deputy President, that the Government in dealing with this matter take a somewhat nonchalant view and indeed do not think they are called upon to deal with it. They say that they cannot take into account all these considerations. Sir, if hon Members will kindly look at the Resolution they will find that it does not want resettlement

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there are many persons in this House and outside it who are very anxious to go about and represent, and more often misrepresent, the views of hon. Members here and their reason for giving their votes in a particular way. Charges of inconsistency have been freely levelled both by my hon. Friend from Coimbatore and the hon. Member for the University. I wish to point out, if I may, that the charge, if at all it can be brought forward, it can be more properly brought forward against the Members themselves. The Resolution regarding the Bellary and Anantapur settlement was one that asked for the postponement of the operation till the introduction of a Settlement Bill. And I wish to explain the reasons that induced us on this side of the House in supporting that Motion. They were, Bellary and Anantapur are districts which are peculiarly situated; year after year, time after time, famines visit the district and only the year before last, and even last year, this Council voted large sums of money for the relief of these famine-stricken districts. My hon. Friend, Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, gave statistics of the last ten or fifteen years, read out remarks of various Collectors, which showed clearly that Bellary was an unfortunate district overtaken by famine year after year. This Council, or rather its predecessor, on two occasions voted for the postponement of resettlement proposals in Bellary, and for exactly the same reasons we on this side of the House felt that in a district so peculiarly affected as Bellary it would only be in the fairness of things that resettlement operations should again be postponed for some time longer. Moreover, the conditions that are now prevailing in Bellary are not suitable for resettlement operations. Famine has not yet left the district, the monsoon has failed miserably, the total rainfall being nearly only 50 per cent of the average rainfall. It is for that reason, Sir, among others, that we voted for that Resolution. The second reason that swayed me and most of the Members that voted with me on that Resolution was this. The Government had expected some time back that a Resettlement Bill would be introduced early in the life of the last Legislative Council. We had brought forward a Resolution that a Resettlement Bill should be soon introduced and the Government of the day took care to frame a Bill, had a special committee appointed, and, I believe, the hon. the Revenue Member at one stage announced that that Bill was ready for introduction. My hon. Friend from Nellore later brought in a Resolution for permanent settlement, on which the whole House was unanimous. The Resolution was passed, and it obviously necessitated a reference to the Government of India, and I do not know what has happened afterwards. I understand informally that the Government of India have negatived, for the time being, the proposal for a permanent settlement. The hon. the Revenue Member, I believe, stated once in this House that he was precluded from introducing the Resettlement Bill because the House had committed itself to permanent settlement. Now, Sir, we wanted to say that so far as the Legislative Council is concerned we were anxious that a Bill should be introduced at a very early stage and we wanted also that in the Legislative Assembly those great patriots who have taken their places now would be good enough in the interests of the ryots of whom so much is heard here, to move for the introduction of permanent settlement. We have no power in the face of the Government of India's order to ask for permanent settlement now, but all that is left for us is to see that Government introduce a Bill and to modify that Bill according to the best interests of the ryots when it comes up for discussion. And therefore we wanted a

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leverage by which the Government could be expedited in introducing the Settlement Bill in this Presidency. The reason why we passed the Resolution regarding Bellary was that if we put off the resettlement in one district the Government was bound to introduce the Bill sooner than later. Those were the two reasons, Sir, why we voted for the Resolution regarding Bellary and Anantapur. Sir, the Resolution as regards Tanjore stands on entirely a different footing. And consistency points out only one course to me. An identical Resolution was brought forward before the last Legislative Council, early this year and the House by a large majority voted against it. How then, Sir, is the attitude of the Council open to the charge of inconsistency if it voted against this Resolution now?"

Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—" May I ask the hon. Member to which Resolution he refers ? "

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" The Resolution that was brought forward by the then Member for Tanjore, Mr. V. Pakkiriswami Pillai."

Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—" May I correct my hon. Friend ? In fact, Sir, no Resolution was brought as regards Tanjore. The Resolution which my hon. Friend refers to is probably that in connexion with Bellary which Mr. Pakkiriswami Pillai supported."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" So far as Tanjore district is concerned, it has no peculiar features as Bellary and Anantapur. The hon. the Mover gave a long catalogue of the grievances of ryots in Tanjore and said that in the proposed resettlement the value of this and that was not taken into consideration, the value of the bulls, the expenses of cultivation, etc. These are the normal features which are present at every resettlement. It is exactly the reason why we are dissatisfied with the executive order, with the valuation put by the resettlement officers on the cost of labour, cattle and other things, it is exactly for that reason that we want a Resettlement Bill to be brought as soon as possible and leave things on a statutory basis. That does not however mean, Sir, that special favour should be shown to Tanjore."

12 noon. " The district of Chingleput has had its resettlement recently, and under that resettlement the land revenue of the district has been enhanced. In South Arcot there was such a resettlement about 4 years ago. In all these the same identical reasons could have been brought forward, and they were brought forward by the then Members of the Legislative Council. The late hon. Diwan Bahadur A. Subbarayalu Reddiyar, the late Minister for Education, brought forward a Resolution regarding the resettlement in South Arcot on the grounds that the valuations made were not proper, that the executive was not fair to the ryots and so on. Now, this is quite different from saying that the resettlement should be postponed. My hon. Friend who has moved this Resolution must himself admit, that after a resettlement there is bound to be some increase or other in the rates. Now, what would be the position if we accept the Resolution and postpone the resettlement for one year ? The hon. Mover wants that for one year Tanjore should go Scot-free. If he had brought forward a Resolution to the effect that the present resettlement rates were high, that they should be altered or reduced by 25 per cent or 50 per cent, that in the Kumbakonam taluk there should be only 18 per cent increase but not 25 per cent, that in some other taluk the increase should not be 18 per cent but only 15 per cent or 12 per cent, I could understand his proposal, and I should have thought twice before

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I voted against such a Resolution. A great deal has been said about the ryots, but my hon. Friends have not made any distinction between the wealthy mirasidars and the poor ryots. Advantages to the one class may not be so advantageous to the other class, and consideration should be given to the poverty of the ryots. What is asked for in the Resolution is merely this: that for one year there should be no enhancement and the resettlement should be postponed. That is to say, that not only they continue to have the old rates for 30 years after the old settlement was brought into effect, but that the old rates would continue during the 31st year also, and that the same advantages would accrue to the people of Tanjore for one year more. That is a position which I cannot understand. Are we to lose the ten or fifteen lakhs which is the expected enhancement, and leave all of it to the Tanjore people merely because a Resolution has been tabled? The most proper thing to have been done was that a Resolution on the merits of the question should have been brought forward.

“Again, Sir, a Bill for resettlement will shortly be introduced, and we have the assurance of the hon. the Home Member on the point. If the resettlement of the Tanjore district is now given effect to, there is nothing on earth to prevent us from moving in that Bill an Amendment to the effect that the settlement rates in districts which have been resettled during the last ten years should be revised in the light of the principles enunciated by that Bill. The Tanjore resettlement would be coming into effect on the 1st April 1924 and the Revenue Bill is expected to come up for discussion in August or so. When that is the case, and when the Bill after consideration by the Council, is passed at the end of 1924 or the beginning of the following year, there is nothing on earth to prevent us from moving Amendments to that Bill, or to add a special clause to the Bill to the effect that the resettlement rates introduced into the several districts during the last few years, which are abnormal rates of increase and were fixed without any regard to the principles which have been since accepted by the House, be reconsidered in the light of the principles enunciated in that Bill. In that way, the claims of, for instance, a district like South Arcot or a district like Chingleput may be introduced for consideration, and they may be benefited. But what my hon. Friend the Mover wants is a blank cheque for his own district of Tanjore, which, I for one, in the interests of the neighbouring districts, in the interests of the general tax-payer, and the interests of the ryots of the Chingleput district whom I represent here, I am not prepared to support.”

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—“Mr. Deputy President, Sir, I rise to support this Motion on two grounds. The first is the principle that taxation should not be levied by executive order but must have the sanction of the legislature. As to that principle many hon. Members on this (left) side of the House have spoken, and as to the soundness of that principle I do not think there is any difference of opinion in the House. The very fact that the Government have agreed to introduce a Bill embodying the principles of resettlement itself shows that the principle by itself is sound. But the question whether resettlement should be postponed in view of the expected Bill seems to be much debated. Sir, a Resolution almost to this effect was passed in this House two days ago, and Members of this House who supported that Resolution will, I believe, stultify their own opinions if they were to oppose this Motion. One hon. Member, Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliyar, told us that if there was anything in the principle which supported that Motion it was mostly against the

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proposition but not for supporting it. This is how, I understand, it would be. If the hon. Members did really support that Motion moved by Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, they ought to have supported the original Motion as it was. It would have been something. But if they supported the Amendment moved by my hon. Friend Mr. Siva Rao, there is no option left but to support this Motion also because that Motion represents a certain principle, namely, that the resettlement ought to be postponed till the Bill for settling the principles of resettlement is introduced and passed. I would like to ask the hon. Member one question. Supposing the Bill is not brought forward this year or the Bill is not passed for five years more, and supposing that the Resolution is accepted, it amounts to this: till that Bill is passed no resettlement ought to be made in Bellary. So, Sir, the Members who have supported that Resolution, if they want to be consistent with their own principles, ought to support this Motion also. But my reason for supporting this Motion is not only that principle but it is more than that. Hon. Members, or most of them, seem to believe that the ryots are capable of indefinite taxation. I for one do not say that there should not be any taxation on the ryots, but so far as I am aware the conditions are different, and I have got some experience of the ryots at least of four or five districts. I am very grateful to the hon. Members who have sympathised with the districts with which I am more or less in acquaintance. But still, I believe, leaving alone individual cases of rich landholders, the ryots and small landholders, wherever they are in the Presidency, do really deserve a lot of sympathy, indeed more than what is usually expected from hon. Members. I believe their lot is very hard. The conditions have entirely changed for some years. The poor landholder who has about one or two acres on which to depend in the villages has nothing else to fall back upon but those one or two acres. Probably some years before, they were able to depend upon some other supplementary occupation, but most of them have died out. Except a few acres—in most cases not even an acre—they have nothing else. I know in some parts of Bellary, Kurnool and Cuddapah, some people depend entirely on one or two acres if not less and have nothing else to do in the villages except to depend on those one or two acres. I believe in other districts also there are such small landholders, and the hon. the Mover has given us figures that in Tanjore, which is supposed to be the richest district, there are at least 65 per cent of people who have to depend on one or two acres. I ask hon. Members what would be the effect of increasing the rates under such circumstances. If the Government has given us an undertaking that in the case of small landholders, such an increase would not be made, probably I would heartily support it. I really believe, as the Collector Mr. Dutt, who certainly must have had much experience of the villages, told us, there ought to be made in future a discrimination between the small landholder and the big landholder, and I hope that that would be the question to be considered in future. One hon. Member told us the other day that even if the principles of settlement are codified there would not be much difference between the principles which are now guiding the Executive in their enhancement of the taxes and the principles of the future Bill. I really doubt very much whether that will be the case. I do not really think that this House is so poor of talent as not to be able to suggest some better principles or some better methods of taxing the people. The case of the small landholder, for whom there is no provision at all at present in the measures proposed, is one in point. I believe this House

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will come to an understanding with regard to the case of the small landholder in future legislation on the Settlement Bill.

(At this stage the hon. the President took the Chair.)

"So, Sir, I believe that the lot of the ordinary small landholders, wherever they may be, either in Tanjore, or in Cuddapah, or in Godavari, is really very hard, and they cannot any longer bear any increased taxation. As at present the principles of settlement do not make any difference between a small landholder and the big landholder, I cannot give my support to any enhancement in future until the Bill is introduced and until we have an opportunity of discussing the whole matter as to what we should do with regard to the small landholders and big landholders, whether we can suggest any better methods by which the sufferings of the small landholders can in any way be alleviated. That is my main ground for supporting the Motion.

"The second ground, which may seem to many hon. Members somewhat revolutionary, is at least one in which I feel very strongly. I find that somehow or other in this Presidency the taxes which are collected mostly from the villagers are spent mostly in the improvement of towns. I, coming here as representative of the villages, feel very strongly that the ryots have been very badly treated in so far as the matter of spending the taxes collected from them is concerned. In whatever way we may view the manner in which the taxes are spent, we find that the villagers have been practically neglected. Take, for instance, a hospital or a school building. Where are they built? They are built in the towns, and the advantages the villagers obtain from them are very little indeed. Probably with regard to the roads and the improvement thereof they do have some advantage. Lakhs have been spent on water-supply schemes for towns, but not a pie has been spent for the villagers. Very little, if at all, has been spent recently for the depressed classes in the way of improving their drinking water-supply and giving them more facilities in that respect. I would therefore put it to the House that in future Members representing the villages ought to be more careful in seeing that the taxes collected from the ryots are spent more equitably than has been the case hitherto. On that ground also, I support this Motion, because I believe any amount of money obtained by enhancement of taxes from the villagers would only, as matters at present stand, be spent not so much for the convenience of the villagers, as ought to be the case, but on schemes which do not benefit the villagers. On the ground of principle, which I mentioned before, and secondly on the ground of the way in which taxes are spent more for the convenience of towns than for villages, I support this Motion. I would add that if hon. Members do not support this Motion, they will only be stultifying the opinions that they expressed with regard to another similar Motion made by the hon. Member Mr. Siva Rao."

12-15 p.m. Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, during the course of the debate in my opening speech on the Resolution, I referred to certain facts and figures and stated to this House how the resettlement rates now proposed in the Tanjore district are not justifiable even on the figures given by the Settlement Officer. In reply, I had from the Government Benches answers to very few of the difficulties which I raised and I may say that none of the arguments which I advanced in favour of the postponement of the resettlement as regards the Tanjore district has been really answered by the other side.

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"I first said that the standard outturn, as given by the Settlement Officer, is very much exaggerated, and that the figures given by him are wrong. It is true that Mr. Paddison referred to certain figures from the very same page which I referred to and that in those cases the outturn was above the standard outturn. But may I remind this House that the lands which are there considered by Mr. Jackson were lands in the Manganallore experimental farm? It is true that it is stated that these lands were not lands on which experiments were carried on. But every hon. Member here knows that lands in the agricultural farms are lands under the control of the Government in which money is lavishly spent, to which labour is unstintedly available, and to which any amount of irrigation facilities are also available, because of the influence which the agricultural officers have with the Public Works Department. Therefore, these ought not to be taken as the criterion on which the yield of ordinary lands under mirasidars ought to be calculated. These are the only figures which the hon. Member, Mr. Paddison, referred to, and certainly he did not attempt to explain the figures lower down the same page, where the yield is given of the same lands before they came to be taken up by the Agricultural Department, and I showed to the House yesterday that the yield of those lands was only three-fourths or two-thirds of the standard outturn. I have said enough on this point and I do not think hon. Members of this House will take the figures which were given by Mr. Paddison yesterday as the outturn to be correct.

"Then, as regards the cost of cultivation, there is one point which I incidentally referred to yesterday, and which I want to emphasize in more detail, since, in a conversation which I had with Mr. Paddison this morning, he seemed to be under some misapprehension. Hon. Members will see from page 55 of the Scheme Report that there is a graded list of cultivation expenses for lands of the first class, for lands of the second class and for lands of the third class and so on. From the preceding pages hon. Members will find that what is really calculated by the Settlement Officer is the cultivation expenses for one acre of the best land that is paying Rs. 14 an acre. From that he says that for lands paying a lower rate of tax, a lower rate of cultivation expenses will do, so much so that for the last class of lands the Settlement Officer thinks that Rs. 10 will do for cultivation expenses per acre. I am not able to understand the logic of that. Supposing a land of the first class requires Rs. 20 an acre to cultivate. I cannot imagine how you can cultivate a land of the third class with Rs. 10 an acre. I suppose the labour is the same, seed is the same, the bull is the same and the other costs of cultivation are the same. This theory of graded scale of cultivation expenses cannot at all be accepted, and Mr. Jackson himself, with rather hesitation, has to follow that because it was a procedure adopted in the previous Settlement. As regards the cultivation expense itself, the then Collector of Tanjore, in forwarding the report to the Board of Revenue, says:

'The conclusion which these results point out is that the scale of cultivation expenses above proposed is a possible one for the low Tanjore standard of farming, but that is by no means liberal. I am inclined to regard it as the minimum expenditure which can be expected to produce the standard outturn. After his very careful consideration of the subject from many points of view it looks as if Mr. Jackson is after all rather doubtful if his deduction for cultivation expenses is quite adequate. I request the Board that, in considering the Scheme Report, special care may be taken to see that for the standard outturns the cultivation expenses allowed in the Scheme Report are adequate, and if Mr. Jackson's estimate of cultivation expenses be found to be an under-estimate, the suggested rate of increase in the assessment may be decreased.'

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“So, as regards the cultivation expenses, what I stated to the House yesterday is perfectly correct, and no possible explanation has been attempted by the other side except saying that, as regards *maniam* and other perquisites given to these farm labourers, Mr. Jackson has taken them all into consideration. I only wish to refer to the passage referred to yesterday at page 52, where he expressly says that if these things are to be allowed the cultivation expenses would be higher and he does not allow those things in his calculation of the cultivation expenses.

“Then I would refer to page 55. I said that the ordinary class of land in the district paying Rs. 8 assessment is giving a net profit of Rs. 14 per acre to the landholder if the increased rate of assessment of Rs. 10 is to be paid. I believe Mr. Paddison does not attempt to controvert my statement because he cannot controvert it as they are figures taken from the Settlement Report, and not from any data supplied by me. Without answering me directly, he referred me to some other figures at page 40, where the lease value of an acre of land is said to be Rs. 56. It is true that that is so, but the conditions of the lease from which this figure is arrived at may be such as may entail on the landholder some expenditure for cultivation expenses. It is like this. It is the practice in the district for the landlord who leases his land, to undertake to do the maramat work in the field after the harvest is over. It is also a familiar case in which the manuring in the fields is undertaken by the landlord where the lease is for one year. Whether this figure of Rs. 56 is arrived at on a consideration of this kind of lease or any other I am not in a position to say. But I am only suggesting that this figure of Rs. 56 given by him cannot be taken to be absolutely correct and that it is not a fair data on which it can be decided. There is one other point. This Rs. 56 is calculated on the average price for five years. That was during the years 1914—1918. Working from the tables given by the settlement officer himself, the average price works out at Rs. 321 per garce, leaving out small fractions. But the commutation price which has been taken into account for the purpose of settlement is Rs. 221. Calculated at the commutation price, the lease value of this comes only to Rs. 37 or Rs. 38 an acre which leaves only a margin of Rs. 28 an acre for land worth Rs. 1,100 according to the Settlement Officer, and I will confidently assert that it cannot be considered as an adequate return on Rs. 1,100, or as a sufficient margin for the increased cost of living which rules in this Presidency.”

Mr. G. F. PADDISON :—“Were not the sale value and the lease value calculated for the same year?”

Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—“Whether the sale deed was of the same year or not, I am not in a position to say. What he says is that the value of the land is Rs. 1,100. . . .”

Mr. G. F. PADDISON :—“The sale value and the lease value are for the same years. You must apply your commutation price to the lease value with reference to the sale value.”

Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—“While thanking for the explanation given, I must confess I am unable to follow the line of argument of my hon. Friend Mr. Paddison. If the line of his argument is that during the years 1914—1918 the value of the land is Rs. 1,100 and the lease value is

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Rs. 56, let it be so. If the income from the land has gone down, his argument seems to be the price must have gone down. If the conclusion is that the price has gone down, then I must say that it is due to the economic condition in the district and there is no ground at all for enhancement of the tax.

"Another argument advanced by Mr. Paddison is that in calculating the average rate of tax which one acre of land in the district is paying, I have taken into consideration both wet and dry lands and said that the average was Rs. 5-8-0 an acre. If the hon. Member is anxious that the wet lands alone ought to be included, I am only saying that the tax which the wet lands will have to pay is much higher, being Rs. 7 or Rs. 7-8-0 an acre. That is a point in my favour which I want to urge before the House.

"Then the hon. Member Mr. Paddison was pleading: 'What are the Ministers to do, what are the transferred departments to do if this rich district of Tanjore is to walk away with 12 lakhs of rupees which they are bound to pay.' I quite confess that I am not pleading for any sympathy or any generosity from this House. I am only placing before this House the fact that the Tanjore ryot is already over-taxed, and that in justice and in fairness to him and on the recognized principles by which any settlement is to go on, he ought not to be asked to pay more. I said even yesterday that if after legislation and after testing the settlement rates of Mr. Jackson, this House or any committee that may be appointed by it, comes to the conclusion that the Tanjore ryot ought to pay more, the Tanjore ryot will in honour bound be willing to pay the increased rate of taxation. The hon. the Home Member asked me yesterday if the legislative measure can be given retrospective effect. Speaking for myself, and as a representative of the district, I see absolutely no objection in giving retrospective effect to the new legislation if the operation of the settlement proposals is suspended for a year.

"Then there are only one or two points which I wish to say in answer to the remarks made by the hon. Member from Chingleput. The hon. Member was saying that there was some inconsistency, there was unfairness to other districts in letting the Tanjore ryot go away scot free, paying the old rates. I do not think that it will be necessary for me to reiterate the arguments which I have already advanced yesterday to show that the Tanjore ryot was already paying a higher rate of taxation than the ryots in the other districts. It may be that Chingleput has been resettled and that other districts have been resettled, and as my hon. Friend suggested, when the legislation is passed, it will be time enough for this House to ask that the taxation should be revised and reduced if necessary. But what I am saying is that Tanjore is not bound to pay the new rates and till the new legislation is passed, let not those new rates come into force. I am certainly not asking for any special generosity or charity for the Tanjore ryot, for he is certainly entitled to it especially owing to the adverse circumstances which are prevailing there for the last two years.

"With these few words, I would crave the sympathetic consideration of this House for the Resolution which I have moved."

Mr. V. HAMID SULTAN MARAKKAYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I rise to
12-30 p.m. give my whole-hearted support to the proposition now before
the House. My only regret is that it does not go far enough
and demand in emphatic language the permanent settlement of ryotwari areas

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in this Presidency which the ryots require and which this Council also by a Resolution has already favoured. I had therefore decided to support this proposition by a silent vote, but the speech of the hon. Mr. Knapp expounding the policy that is to guide the Madras Government in connexion with land revenue settlement was so reactionary and against public opinion that I feel it my duty to raise my emphatic protest against the sentiments he gave expression to. It is a matter of common knowledge that considerable dissatisfaction is felt by the poor ryots of the Tanjore district at the manner in which this Council, ignoring two of its own Resolutions, defeated the modest Resolution of my hon. Friend Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar recommending that the adoption of settlement proposals in the Presidency may be postponed pending legislation embodying the principles of land revenue settlement or introduction of the permanent settlement of holdings. What are the two earlier Resolutions I refer to? The first Resolution was moved by my hon. Friend Mr. Siva Rao on the 15th February 1921 recommending to the Government 'that the adoption of resettlement proposals in the Presidency may be postponed till the principles of land revenue settlement are embodied in legislation'. This Resolution was discussed at great length and carried by an overwhelming majority, 76 voting for, 17 against, the hon. the Ministers remaining neutral. The principle of this Resolution was accepted by Government and the hon. Mr. Knapp was kind enough to say the other day that the Government had accepted the principle ten months even earlier than this Resolution and called on the Board of Revenue to prepare a draft Bill. The original Resolution of the Council being vague and not clear as to the lines on which legislation should proceed, the Council thought it its duty to give a definite idea to the Government as to the lines which will be acceptable to the Council, and so by a subsequent Resolution expressed emphatically in favour of permanent settlement. There is absolutely nothing inconsistent between the two propositions above referred to, but the wondrous part of the whole thing was that this Council by a majority rejected the Resolution of my hon. Friend Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar embodying the substance of both the Resolutions. The hon. Mr. Knapp was kind enough to paraphrase the recommendations of the committee appointed by this Government, and pointed out that one of its recommendations was too bitter a pill for the Government to swallow, namely, that the decision not only as to the increase or decrease in assessment, but the final decision on every single matter of detail connected with resettlement should be absolutely with the Legislative Council, the Government being required to pass orders in accordance with the decision of this Council. I see neither any novelty nor any impending revolution by this recommendation made by the committee. The committee consisted of officials and non-officials and was presided over by the hon. Sir Habib-ul-lah Sahib, the Revenue Member, and if such a committee's proposal is to be treated as revolutionary, I don't know what will suit the taste of this Government. Further, what is the revolutionary character attributed to this recommendation? Is it the need urged therein that every single matter of detail should lie absolutely with the Legislative Council? If this is to be called revolutionary, we can very well drop the curtain over this farce of responsible Government now played in this Hall with so much trumpeting.

"Assuming that the Government considered this proposal most revolutionary and unacceptable to them and assuming also that the proposal for

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permanent settlement did not find favour with the Government of India, what is the duty of the Government? They ought to have forthwith brought forward their own Bill and asked for its acceptance. Without doing this and ignoring their own acceptance of the principle that the principles of land revenue should be placed on a statutory basis they have gone on passing orders on resettlement proposals one after the other. But I am glad that so far as the Anantapur and Bellary districts are concerned, this Council has again by an overwhelming majority reaffirmed its determination not to allow resettlement orders to be brought to force without land revenue legislation being passed. It is a principle which is bound to apply to all districts in general and no amount of attempt made to rouse inter-district jealousies can be of any avail. Of course it is the usual game, but I think hon. Members of this House will not be a party to such tactics. I appeal to hon. Members to ignore any such appeal and to stand united for the principle which they have reaffirmed only the other day.

“One word to the Government. There is considerable unrest in the Tanjore district at the unjust enhancement of land revenue. Already prices have fallen and the position of the mirasidar has become miserable. They find it difficult to make both ends meet. If in this situation they persist in their attempts to raise the revenue they will be creating in the district a situation which it may become impossible to ease. Already the ryots are thinking of joint and concerted action to resist the increase if Government still persists. I warn the Government to take note of the situation. With these few words I support the resolution.”

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP.—“Sir, I do not want to detain the House for more than a very few minutes. This Resolution has been, as I think hon. Members will agree with me, thoroughly discussed, and I suppose it is probably the general desire of the House that we should bring the debate to an end. I feel all the same that the importance of the subject demands that I should say one or two words in closing. I do not propose again to go over the ground that we covered at such length on Thursday on the question how it was that legislation on this subject has not yet been introduced. I gave the fullest explanation which I possibly could; and if hon. Members wish to approach the same question again to-day, I can only refer them to the remarks I then made. Nor do I intend to follow the hon. the Mover of the Resolution in an examination of details of the Tanjore Resettlement Scheme which he has examined and laid before us with such profusion. I may congratulate him on the mastery which he has of the complicated subject, and I may envy him in the encyclopædic knowledge of Settlement matters which he has displayed. But I am afraid there are very many members of this Council, who, having no personal knowledge of Settlement procedure, must have found themselves rather entangled in the meshes of figures and statistics which my hon. Friend the Mover produced for their benefit, and who would have preferred this question to be put before them in the shape of some broad issue. That, Sir, is exactly my point, and the broad issue which I wish to place before the House is this: have any arguments been really brought forward to justify the proposal to relieve the Tanjore district of the obligation which for many years past has fallen on other districts in the Presidency, namely, the obligation at the end of every thirty years to face a revised settlement and to meet whatever rates our expert Settlement officers,

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working on recognised standardized regulations, may recommend as leviable. That, Sir, is the perfectly broad issue, and it is to that issue that I would ask the House to confine itself.

“There are, however, one or two matters in my hon. Friend the Mover’s speeches to which I must refer in rather greater detail, though very briefly lest the impression which he left on the House by his remarks might possibly confuse this one broad issue. One of the points to which he referred is the determination of the cultivation expenses. Now, Sir, comprehensive as is my hon. Friend’s knowledge of settlement matters, I cannot help thinking that in his study he must have somehow overlooked this book called ‘Instructions for conducting Resettlements in the Madras Presidency’.”

Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—“I have also looked into it.”

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—“Though my hon. Friend is aware of it, evidently he has not referred to it. This book lays down certain principles for the guidance of our Settlement officers in conducting a resettlement, and on the very first page of it, there occurs this instruction which I would like to impress on hon. Members: ‘Except for special reasons no general reclassification of soils and no fresh calculation of grain outturns, cultivation expenses, etc., will be made.’ Now, my hon. Friend complained that the Settlement officer had not dealt properly with the question of cultivation expenses, but has he put forward any special reason—and under the instructions given to the Settlement officer special reasons should be given in such cases—why cultivation expenses should be reviewed at all? I submit, Sir, that not a word has been said in support of the idea that, while in other districts cultivation expenses are not to be brought under review, in Tanjore alone that course should be followed.”

“The other point to which he alluded is in regard to the commutation rates. The hon. the Mover has suggested that the Settlement officer was wrong in including in his years of calculation certain years of high prices, although they cannot be regarded as famine years, yet they were years of high prices. About that, Sir, I could argue at very great length with my hon. Friend opposite as to whether those years were or were not rightly included, but I am not going to do so. My short answer on this point—and it is one which I think the Council would do well to consider very seriously—is this. Taking the twenty years preceding the settlement and ascertaining the average rates of grain value during those years, the Settlement officer arrived at the conclusion that the average was no less than 83 per cent higher than the rates on which the previous settlement was based. But did the Government take that 83 per cent? It took 25 per cent in some parts of the Tanjore district and 18½ per cent in others, and I submit that between that 25 per cent or 18½ per cent and the 83 per cent which we found to be the admissible commutation rate, there is ample margin to cover any such errors of calculation on the part of the Settlement officer as have been indicated by my hon. Friend; that is to say, there is a margin of nearly 60 per cent to cover any such errors that may have occurred. That being the case, I do not feel in the least called upon to follow my hon. Friend, the Mover, in his intricate and complicated discussion of the commutation rates.”

Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—“I may be permitted to state that this 83 per cent comes to Rs. 4-15-0 per acre.”

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The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—“ The margin is 83 per cent, Sir, according to our calculations. I am not now concerned with the figures per acre at present. I am content to base my statement on that percentage of 83.

“ Turning to the other speakers, there is one point to which I have had occasion to allude already, and to which I fear I must make a further reference. It has been said over and over again, and the statement has been repeated to-day, that the Government do not in fact propose to introduce legislation to put resettlements on a statutory basis. I think the statement was made more directly by hon. Friend for Coimbatore, Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar; it was repeated in a more indirect form by Mr. Srinivasa Ayyangar, and came up again to-day in another form from below the gangway. What Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar said, if I understood him aright, was that if you allow the Government to go on introducing resettlements before settlements are placed on a legislative basis, it will mean that Government will postpone that legislation. Against such a statement I must really protest. I have given the most positive assurance on the subject that we not only propose but are actually moving towards legislation on this subject, and that the legislation will be introduced at the first moment at which it will be humanly possible. After all, I would ask the House to remember that we on these benches are human beings and that if we are to spend our time in this Council from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and in addition to get through the current work of our departments, it is not too easy to find time to sit down and work out all the details of so very important a legislative measure as this will be. I have already given my assurance, Sir, and I would suggest to my hon. Friends opposite that when an assurance is given from this bench on behalf of Government as to some future action which Government propose to take, it may very well be taken as a convention that the assurance should be accepted as true until it is shown to be false.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ I never said anything like untrue or false. I said that, taking all the explanation that had been given, it was likely that the other works of Government would be considered more pressing and that this legislative work would be held on if there is no penalty attached to it.”

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—“ I am very glad my hon. Friend did not intend his words in the sense in which I took them.

“ There is one noticeable point in connexion with which very many speeches have been made to-day, and to that I think I am entitled to refer. Practically all the speakers started by assuring the House that what we were discussing was purely a matter of principle, that we had nothing to do with Bellary or Tanjore, but that it was a question of principle as to whether Government should be allowed a free hand in making any resettlement. But unfortunately most of them, not excepting my hon. Friend below the gangway, were unable to resist the temptation to enlarge on the pitiful economic conditions of the ryots of Tanjore. I recognize their difficulty. They were between two stools; like those in that position fell between them. We spent a good deal of time yesterday in discussing Bellary, and the decision of the House was that the settlement in Bellary should be postponed until revenue settlement had been placed on a statutory basis. It was in that form that the Resolution was put to the House, but I say without any

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fear of contradiction that the main consideration, which was in the minds of the hon. Members of this House, as is shown by the trend of the debate, when they gave their vote for that Resolution, was the economic condition of the Deccan districts.

“It was admitted that the economic condition of those districts had not been favourable for some years past and that was a very prominent consideration in the minds of hon. Members when they voted for the postponement of the Bellary settlement. The closing speech of the hon. the Mover of the Resolution itself practically dwelt on that subject alone. The important question which the Members of the House have to ask themselves is, whether the criterion which they have applied to their vote on the subject of Bellary applies also to Tanjore. I submit, Sir, there is only one possible answer to that question and that is, ‘No’. Nobody can suggest that Tanjore is famine stricken and that its harvest is on the same precarious basis as that of the Bellary district. We all know of the rush there is for land in Tanjore and that it is very valuable property. The hon. Member for the University has accused me, or rather complimented me for trying to play upon inter-district jealousies. I am not doing anything of the kind. What I am doing is to ask the House to judge between the general interests of the tax-payers and the particular interests of one district. And when that one particular district is universally recognized as a prosperous one and when it comes forward and asks to be relieved from bearing its proper share in the taxation of the Presidency, then I consider that this House, which is charged, not with the interests of one district but with the interests of all, is entitled to take the wider view and whatever might have been the case in Bellary, to decide that Tanjore has no claim whatever to be exempted from the regular and ordinary scale of settlement taxation.”

The Motion was put and lost. A poll was taken with the following result:—

Ayes

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Mr. B. Mahabala Hegde. | 23. Mr. S. Satyamurti. |
| 2. „ K. Prabhakaran Tampan. | 24. „ T. Adinarayana Chettiyar. |
| 3. Rao Bahadur C. Natesa Mudaliyar. | 25. Rao Bahadur C. Gopala Menon. |
| 4. Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi. | 26. Mr. C. Maruthavanam Pillai. |
| 5. Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu. | 27. Rao Sahib U. Rama Rao. |
| 6. „ C. V. S. Narasimha Raju. | 28. Mr. G. Rameswara Rao. |
| 7. Mr. P. Siva Rao. | 29. „ P. C. Venkatapati Raju. |
| 8. „ A. Chidambara Nadar. | 30. „ Venkatarama Ayyar alias V. Pantulu Ayyar. |
| 9. „ K. Koti Reddi. | 31. „ B. Venkataratnam. |
| 10. „ J. Kuppuswami. | 32. „ Abbas Ali Khan Sahib. |
| 11. „ P. Anjaneyala. | 33. „ G. Abdulla Ghatala Sahib. |
| 12. „ S. Muttayya Mudaliyar. | 34. „ V. Hamid Sultan Marakkayar. |
| 13. Diwan Bahadur S. Rm. Ct. Pethachi Chettiyar. | 35. Khan Bahadur P. Khalif-ul-lah Sahib. |
| 14. Rai Bahadur T. M. Narasimhachari. | 36. Mr. T. M. Moidoo Sahib. |
| 15. Mr. P. Peddi Raju. | 37. „ Muhammad Moosa Sait Sahib. |
| 16. „ A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. | 38. „ T. N. Bava Ravuttar Muhammad Sahib. |
| 17. „ J. A. Saldanha. | 39. Khan Sahib Saiyid Diwan Abdul Razaq Sahib. |
| 18. „ M. Seetayya. | 40. Mr. K. Uppi Sahib. |
| 19. „ M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar. | 41. Munshi Abdul Wahab Sahib. |
| 20. „ R. Srinivasa Ayyangar. | 42. Mr. Janab Muhammad Yahya Ali Sahib. |
| 21. „ Sami Venkatachalam Chettiyar. | |
| 22. „ C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. | |

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Noes

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| 1. The hon. Sir Charles Todhunter. | 24. Mr. P. V. Gopalan. |
| 2. „ Mr. A. R. Knapp. | 25. Rao Bahadur K. Krishnaswami Nayudu. |
| 3. „ „ C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar. | 26. The Raja of Kurupam. |
| 4. „ the Raja of Kollengode. | 27. Honv. Lt. Madurai. |
| 5. „ „ Panagal. | 28. Mr. T. Mallesappa. |
| 6. „ Rao Bahadur A. P. Patro. | 29. Rao Bahadur A. M. Murugappa Chetti ar. |
| 7. „ Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivagnam Pillai. | 30. Mr. C. Muttayya Mudaliyar. |
| 8. Mr. Legh. | 31. „ B. Obalesappa. |
| 9. „ Madhavan Nayar. | 32. „ K. S. Ponnuswami Pillai. |
| 10. „ P. L. Moore. | 33. „ P. T. Rajan. |
| 11. „ G. F. Paddison. | 34. „ B. Ramachandra Reddi. |
| 12. „ H. Tireman. | 35. Rao Bahadur P. Raman. |
| 13. „ C. Nicholson. | 36. Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar. |
| 14. „ P. W. Partridge. | 37. „ P. Sagaram. |
| 15. „ A. E. Rencontre. | 38. „ J. D. Samuel. |
| 16. „ A. J. Leech. | 39. „ K. Sarvarayudu. |
| 17. „ S. R. Y. Ankinedu Prasad. | 40. „ R. Srinivasan. |
| 18. „ Ari Gowder. | 41. The Raja of Ramnad. |
| 19. „ P. K. S. A. Arumuga Nadar. | 42. Rai Bahadur Sir K. Venkatarreddi Nayudu. |
| 20. „ A. V. Bhanoji Rao. | 43. Mr. T. V. S. Sundaramurthi. |
| 21. „ Devendrudu. | 44. „ O. Tanikachala Chettiayar. |
| 22. Diwan Bahadur Sir P. Tyagaraya Chetti yar. | 45. Rao Bahadur C. Venkataranga Reddi. |
| 23. Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiayar. | 46. Mr. W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar. |
| | 47. „ M. Ratnaswami. |
| | 48. „ Venkatachala Padayachi. |

42 voted *for* the Motion and 48 *against* it. The Motion was declared lost amidst Opposition cheers.

The House then (12-55 p.m.) rose for lunch.

The House re-assembled after lunch at 3-30 p.m., the hon. the President in the Chair.

V

MOTION REGARDING THE HON. THE PRESIDENT'S RETIREMENT.

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—“ Mr. President, I beg leave to move—

That the thanks of this Council be given to the hon. the President for his distinguished services in the Chair for nearly three years; that he be assured that this Council greatly appreciates the ability and impartiality with which he has discharged the duties of his high office, through the first period of the existence of this Reformed Legislative Council, and the judgment and firmness with which he has maintained its privileges and dignity; and that the Council desires to place on record its deep and abiding sense of gratitude for the courtesy and attention which he has uniformly shown to its Members, which has earned him the respect and esteem of all sections of the same.

“ I deem myself especially fortunate, Sir, in that it falls to my lot to make the motion to-day, not only because I am sure I shall find myself for a change in the position, not of having ‘practically no following’ (laughter) but of having the unanimous following of the whole Council (hear, hear), but also because it is a great pleasure to me personally to be allowed to voice the universal feelings of this House, of admiration, respect, and honour and, if I may say so, of affection (hear, hear) for one who has served his country so well for something that is coming nigh upon forty

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years and has now added to his previous record that of having given dignity, wisdom and respect to the deliberations of this assembly. (Hear, hear and cheers).

"There are many descriptions, Sir, of the functions of the ideal president of an assembly of this kind. I will take one by an Austrian writer in which he sums up the characteristics of the great speakers of the Mother Parliaments: 'Ceaseless diligence and love of order in the management of Parliamentary business, a lofty conception of the speaker's task, the passing on from generation to generation of a tradition of unapproachable personal integrity and political impartiality, have come to be associated with the very idea of the speakership: these qualities united to a clear grasp of the method of conducting business, and at times to an amazing sagacity in handling men, are the great characteristic traits of the speakers as they pass in long sequence before the view of the historian of Parliament.' I venture to claim, Sir, that with the one exception of traditions passing from generation to generation, an exception which makes it all the more remarkable (hear, hear), we have had in the President of our Council a combination of all the qualities which Mr. Redlich finds in the speakers of the House of Commons. (Cheers.)

"I need not enlarge, Sir, upon your mastery of Parliamentary form. You have made a deep study of Parliamentary procedure not only in the books and at conferences with your fellow Presidents but by actually visiting the Mother of Parliaments and observing the procedure there. As a consequence you have decided points of order and interpreted the rules of the House in a manner that none can dispute. You have kept our talk strictly to the subject of the discussion. You have always been seized with the drift of the argument even of the dullest speaker in the dreariest debate. (Laughter.) You have never slept in your chair. (Laughter and cheers.) You have known what to hear and what on occasion it was better not to hear. But, above all, you have been ever ready to assist the newest or oldest of us in any point of doubt or difficulty that might arise and have been on every such occasion to our 'virtues vevy kind' and to our faults more than 'a little blind'.

"Nor need I enlarge, Sir, upon your lofty conception of the President's task, except to say that you have by your own personality in a very great measure made up for the lack of that tradition years which counts for so much in the Mother of Parliaments. The old forms which are revered there, if they are introduced in a new country, are apt to be regarded as somewhat out of place, if they are not disregarded altogether. You have avoided such an event and have established and guarded with jealous care the authority, honour, privileges and dignity of this House. (Hear, hear.) You have taken and maintained the position of the first Commoner, which is, I submit, pre-eminently a non-official position, in such a way that no one who did not know your record would credit that you had a long life of bureaucracy behind you (laughter and cheers) and in so doing have done honour, I venture to say, both to this House and to the bureaucratic order of which you were once so distinguished an ornament. (Laughter.)

"And while you have remembered the House's dignity, you have also had regard to its passing phase of poverty, and have been the first to set an example of retrenchment by foregoing a substantial part of the salary His Excellency the Governor has fixed as befitting the dignity of the post you hold (cheers).

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"The next great characteristic trait which has been remarked in the Speakers of the House of Commons is an amazing sagacity in handling men. You have been, Sir, a true friend to every one of us (hear, hear) and, when on any occasion you have found it necessary to administer a rebuke, you have done so in such a way as to give the rebuke the flavour of a compliment (laughter). Added to this, your saving grace of humour has saved us from many an awkward situation that we might afterwards have remembered with regret. If I may quote what Mr. Lloyd George said of Mr. Speaker Lowther: 'Your wit has been at once the delight and the security of the House' (hear, hear). Many a thundercloud has been scattered when it was on the point of breaking with consequences disastrous to the dignity of this Assembly.

"In conclusion, Sir, may I say that we all rejoice that no failure of mind or body is responsible for your retirement from the Chair? We know that in your case the retirement simply means that you go to serve the Presidency which you love so well in another capacity (hear, hear). If, therefore, we miss your presence in this House, we shall on the other hand feel that we are gainers by the fact that you no longer wear the white bands which are the mark of a neutral political life, but are able once again to take up the cudgels on behalf of Madras. And who can realize better the advantages of having you as champion than the non-official Members of this Council who have borne the shrewd blows that you dealt them in the vanished days when you were the mainstay of the Government Bench?

"I feel sure, Sir, that my Motion will be carried with no opposing voice (hear, hear) and that your last difficulty in your high office will be to bring to a close the speeches of those who wish to follow me on a theme on which it is impossible to say too much" (loud and prolonged cheers).

The RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"Sir, I have great pleasure in associating myself with what my hon. Friend, Sir Charles Todhunter, 3-45 p.m. has just said. Indeed, Sir, it is a source of no small gratification to me to have this opportunity of giving expression to our sense of gratitude to you for the very able manner in which you have been conducting the proceedings of this Council. In you, Sir, we have had an ideal President. Your extraordinary abilities and your inimitable humour have saved the Council in somewhat difficult situations. Your sagacious judgment and your high sense of duty have been responsible for the establishment of many an excellent convention in this Council. Sir, you are now leaving us to take your place in the India Council and we are sure that with your determination to serve the interests of your country you will be an asset to that august body. And from there, we expect you to guide the destinies of our Presidency with that highminded statesmanship which is so characteristic of you.

"Sir, on an occasion like the present it is rather difficult to give adequate expression to our feelings. This much I am able to say that the loss that this Presidency in general, and this Chamber in particular, sustains by the relinquishment of your office as President of this Council can never be repaired. Our only consolation is that to the extent our Province loses India as a whole gains. We wish you Godspeed.

"With these observations I second the Motion which has been so eloquently made by my hon. Friend, the Leader of the House (loud cheers)."

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Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—“ Sir, Mr. President, I rise with feelings of deep sorrow to associate myself with the Leader of the House to-day. I cannot find sufficient words to express my feelings on this solemn occasion ; my words are much deeper than my lips.

“ Sir, I have the fortune to have known you for over two decades, whether as a Deputy Collector, as Diwan, practically ruler of two enlightened Native States, as a Member of the Executive Council, as the first Indian Vice-President of the pre-Reformed Council and as the first President of this august House. Sir, you have earned a reputation, that is a universal one, of being a very good, sympathetic and kind Friend especially to your old acquaintances however low they may be in social position, of being a public-spirited officer. Sir, you were always known as a public man even in Government service, of being a thorough reformer both socially and politically, of being a cosmopolitan statesman and a great and talented administrator ‘introducing modern instincts’ wherever you went, even ‘before the press and the platform espoused them’ enacting legislation with a boldness unsurpassed, maturing gigantic schemes with a thoroughness and efficiency unrivalled. If they say that you have built up new Travancore and new Cochin, Sir, you have built a new Madras in that you have been the father of the co-operative credit system. All communities, Muhammadans, Christians, non-Brahman Hindus and Brahmans, derived utmost benefit through your spontaneous efforts. Sir, I know many a non-Brahman family of this Presidency is under deep debt of gratitude to you to-day. In the early teens of this century non-Brahmans were mobilising their forces. At a later period when non-Brahmans were pressing for a non-Brahman Executive Council Member, especially a Muhammadan, and when your name was rumoured for that place the non-Brahman press and platform, even that virulent non-Brahman paper that existed then, ‘The Non-Brahman’, and the leader of the non-Brahmans then late Diwan Bahadur Karunakara Menon, all with one voice gave an unqualified support for the suggestion and when it was realized we all rejoiced in it.

“ Now, Sir, we cannot conceive of this Council without you. It passes one’s imagination to think that anybody else can replace you in the seat in which you are seated to-day. Sir, we will miss you in this House, where Reforms inaugurated were a success mostly due to your guidance. In this House, Sir, your nods and smiles inspired many a speaker to lengthen his speeches (laughter). This House resounded with acclamations when you gave wise rulings couched in most humorous expressions. Sir, in this House where your capacious intellect, broad heart, your quick grasp of the situation, your independent decision given on the spur of the moment without caring for the frowns or favour of anybody, your tact and talent, all excite our admiration. Sir, in this Council where hon. Members with eloquence and erudition, intellect and information, and position and power, popular democrats and privileged aristocrats all bowed their heads to your wise decisions.

“ Sir, our only consolation is that you are going to discharge your duties for your country on a higher sphere of activities. What Madras and the Madras Legislative Council are to lose India will gain. I pray for your long life so that after your overseas service to your country you may return and enjoy a well-earned rest in this land which is yours and mine ” (loud cheers).

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Diwan Bahadur Sir P. TYAGARAYA CHETTIYAR :—" Mr. President, I have much pleasure in supporting the Motion of the Leader of the House. I am sorry I am prevented by a cold from speaking at length ; but I cannot allow this occasion to pass without congratulating you on your most successful tenure of the first Presidentship of the First Reformed Council. To me it has not been surprising, knowing you as I have done from your boyhood and having watched you, as I have done, during your long career as a public servant. As President you have been very impartial, and, if I may say so without any presumption, you have not committed one single act of favouritism. You have not spared me even, though I have been your life-long friend.

" You are bidding farewell to the service in India, but you are at the same time about to enter on another career of equal, if not higher, usefulness and I am sure you will in the position you will hold in the Council of the Secretary of State help us in improving our position here. I beg leave, as your oldest Friend, to wish you health and long life."

4 p.m. Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—" Sir, may I take the opportunity of associating myself with the previous speakers in the generous sentiments expressed this evening, sentiments of the loss which this House is bound to suffer on account of your absence and the sentiments of love and affection which you have created in the minds of one and all of us, of this great Assembly. Mr. President, Sir Tyagaraya Chettiyar, was telling you that, though he was a friend of yours from his earliest days, you did not show him a bit of favouritism, and of course you are of that type. Three or four years ago, when I was first acquainted with you, I said some things of you of which I was not proud in my after-life. You know, Sir, that not only did you not utter a single word of resentment, but you have extended universal kindness to me throughout in the true Christian fashion of showing kindness to my faults though they were unmeant and unintentional. (Applause.)

" Mr. President, the ship of the Reformed Council, launched three years ago to find out its seaworthiness, perhaps in waters unknown, has been entrusted to you, and you have been asked to steer on this somewhat long and weary journey ; and before you took us to the first coaling station you were called upon to assume another office. But may I say that during this short period you have so far endeared and conducted yourself in such a manner that, as the hon. the Leader of the House has mentioned, you have shown in the small period all the esteemed qualities, qualities which are often praised in the Mother of Parliaments. As he has told this House, we had occasions on which some Members had to be snubbed—rebuked even—but the expression was so kindly and gently employed, and with that humour for which you are so famous, that the gentleman never felt it as a snub at all, but enjoyed it as much as anybody else in this House. Occasions there arose in this House in which complicated intricacies of procedure had to be discovered, and you gave a solution of them with the practised hand of an expert. In spite of the fact that you yourself were new to the Speaker's Chair and in spite of the fact that this House was called upon to enter into a scheme which was new not only to this Council but new perhaps to the whole world, —for this wonderful system of diarchy is unknown to the world—you have been able to take us through these three years in a manner and in a degree which perhaps no other Government and no other President has been able

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to achieve. The Leader of the House has described to this House the qualities which are praised in the mother of Parliaments and those qualities, viz.—

‘ ceaseless diligence and love of order in the management of Parliamentary business, the passing on from generation to generation of a tradition of unrepachable personal integrity and political impartiality and the amazing sagacity . . . ’

have all been your characteristic traits, traits which will go down to the posterity, to a grateful posterity, and I am sure your name will be writ large in the history of this country, for when the history of this country comes to be written it is the work of those who are associated with the earlier days of the working of this Reformed Council and who have played a large part in developing the progress of this country and its future Government that must find a prominent place in it. And you, Sir, have had a share in it and I am perfectly certain that when that history is written you will be known as the only one who lent a helping hand to the new Council for working its own salvation, of which any man can be proud and any nation can be proud. Sir, in that way you have done your duty and this great nation will always be grateful to you for the help you have rendered and for the assistance you have given.” (Applause.)

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ Mr. President, Sir, I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the Leader of the House and by all the previous speakers. It is difficult to speak, Sir, without feeling on the many characteristics that you possess and which have made the last Legislative Council and the present one a great success, and especially difficult it is when we come to speak in the presence of one whose many qualities we admire so much. I say frankly that when we shall meet in January under the new President the universal feeling will be that expressed by the Persian poet:

‘ Irani indeed is gone with all its rose
And Jamshyd's seven-ringed cup where no one knows.’

“ Sir, it is no reflection upon your successors, whether they be nominated Presidents or Presidents elected by this House, when I say that for a long time to come we shall not have another President with a quality which has endeared him to us all (applause). Sir, the Speaker is supposed to be above all political parties. In fact, the tradition in the House of Commons goes to such an extent that when a Speaker is elected—no doubt from one of the great political parties—he has even to stop attending the political club of which he is a member.

“ Sir, I do not think anybody will deny that in the presidential chair you have acted above all parties. You have been thoroughly neutral to parties and parties' passions and you have shown your independence to a degree which has commanded the confidence of all sections of this House. Whether it is the Leader of the House or whether it is a humble back-bencher like myself, we have had your unfailing courtesy extended to us and your helping hand to guide us through the debate.

“ Sir, the great art that a Speaker must possess is the masterly way in which he has his eyes upon the various Members when the debate is going on. Sir, very often the Speaker would be carried away by the debate. You are, Sir, an ideal Speaker who can turn his eyes upon every individual in the House so that even if one Member should have been unnoticed previously he would be allowed to speak when he catches your eye. That, Sir, is the tradition

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which we wish to firmly establish and it is not always that a particular Member ought to be heard, but it is more often that a nervous speaker that should be called upon to speak.

"Sir, as President of the Legislative Council you have given us a lead in parliamentary practice which no other President I am sure has given. We in the Madras Legislative Council have established parliamentary forms and traditions which, long after you have ceased to act in the presidential chair, will be the guiding principle of all Presidents who will come hereafter. Your masterly exposition of points of order confounding Law Members and pleaders rich in parliamentary practice and tradition has been a marvel to us all. In later years when a Parliamentary Committee comes forth to judge the fitness of Indians for full responsible Government, if they were to take the work of the President of this Legislative Council into consideration and judge solely from that work, I am perfectly certain that there is not a single subject which we have not transacted without success and there shall not be a single responsibility which we shall not be in a position to discharge. Sir, I heartily associate myself with all the sentiments that have been expressed in this House."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"I claim it as a privilege to associate myself with all the feelings that have been expressed on this occasion by my hon. Friend, the Leader of the House, and all others who have spoken before me. Having had the opportunity to be associated with you in the work of the Legislative Council even before the Reformed Constitution, I find it difficult to give adequate expression to the admiration and love which you have evoked from all sections of the people ever since your entry into the Council even as Judicial Secretary. I remember that even from the time when you were sitting on the official benches and propounding various questions of policy you were able to strike our admiration in a manner which is indescribable. It is not to me a matter for surprise that you have by your conduct as President of the Legislative Council won the admiration and gratitude of all sections of people not in this Presidency alone, but all over India. Well, I mean no disparagement to all hon. Presidents of other Legislatures of India. I feel it my duty to indicate, Sir, my impression that you have brought credit to the whole of India and it is admitted on all hands that you have managed the Council in such a way that you have been termed as one of the best and ablest Presidents in India. (Applause.)

"Sir, after a year or two of your conduct as President of this Council you have been in a position to manage it with such high sense of justice and such high tone of impartiality, that if you were able to bring in the course of discussion such wit and humour as make the proceedings far more lively and interesting, as it has been, it is a trait in your character which all those who knew you before should have been able to recognize. I am now reminded, Sir, on this occasion, as to your wonderful powers of debate which you evinced in the Council before. Even as a Member of the Executive Council when the City Municipal Bill was on the legislative anvil and when the late Dr. Nayar was also appointed as one of the expert Members of the Council, I know what a controversy we had, what a stormy discussion we had on so many questions which came before the Council. On the last day when a motion was made by you that the Bill be passed into Law I remember that most of those in the Opposition were inclined to oppose the passing of that measure into Law. Your

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vigorous defence and your wonderful powers of debates and the way in which for over one and a half hours you kept up the whole of this Council in rapt admiration over the various points in the Municipal Bill convinced most of those who were sitting in the Opposition benches with the result that they gave way and supported the passing of the Bill into Law. Sir, those were the wonderful powers even while you were in office. It is no matter for surprise to me that you have captivated, rather fascinated us all by your conduct as President during these three years, and we find it extremely difficult to part company with you. Sir, it is not easy to give adequate expression for those who have begun to entertain feelings of love and affection owing to long association with you at such a time of parting company. More than that, Sir, I have my sympathy and pity for the future Presidents of this Council.

4-15 p.m. " My heart goes forth to them as to the difficulties which they may have to encounter the moment they assume office. You have set before us all such a high ideal of presidentship that it will be difficult for any ordinary person to follow hereafter, but our only consolation is that during this period of three years you have set such an example that whoever happens to take your place, it will be enough for him to follow that noble example. If it is necessary for us to bid you farewell as the hon. President of this Council, it is at least a matter of satisfaction that in another sphere you will be able to watch our destinies and take us nearer and nearer to the promised goal. As every one is aware we are having very serious misgivings and misapprehensions about the future progress of the Reforms in this country. We have felt that in some directions the clouds have been thickening and the bright hopes which we entertained are not the same as before. It is at the most opportune moment, Sir, that it has been your privilege to take your place in the Council of the Secretary of State. This is just the time, the transition period when we, all, friends and lovers of India, expect you to do your utmost, to rise to the occasion and to take India forward nearer and nearer towards full responsible Government. If we have feelings of regret that we have to part company, we are also glad at the same time that just at the time when the help of such friends and lovers of India are needed you are taken to a sphere where you can render valuable service to our motherland."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Mr. President, Sir, it is a unique privilege which I enjoy this afternoon of speaking on a Motion made by the hon. the Leader of the House, supported by the hon. the Leader of the Ministerial party which, I know, will be carried unanimously by every section of this House. It has not been my privilege so far and I do not expect it is going to be my privilege in the future and therefore I enjoy it all the more as being a unique occasion in the history of my life in this Council. I say it is a privilege to associate myself with my friends on the other side of the House most whole-heartedly with this Resolution expressing our warm appreciation of the distinguished services you have rendered to this House and through this House to the country which I know you love so well, in discharging the high functions of the office which you have been holding. More than that, Sir, I have great pleasure in associating myself with every word which fell from the lips of the hon. the Leader of the House. It was a most eloquent speech delivered—it is in that manner that such speeches must be delivered, if I may say so respectfully, with passion restrained, with affection which was obvious, as the words came from his lips. And I have

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great pleasure to say that both in the matter and in the manner in which this motion was made, my heart has been touched and it goes forth to you, Sir, as expressing our warm feelings of affection and gratitude for all that you have been and all that you have done to us. You came to this House, Sir, with great disabilities. As the hon. the Leader of the House said, you had been a bureaucrat all your life, and it was Dr. Johnson who once said, 'you can make something even of a Scotchman if you catch him young'; and after seeing you, Sir, in this chair, I began to think that we can make something even of a bureaucrat (laughter). But more than that your second great disability has been that you had to preside over a House which has no parallel in the history of the world. Where, in the world, Sir, have you got a Treasury Bench one half of which belongs to the Reserved Half, and the other half represents the Transferred Half, nominated officials, nominated non-officials, Ministers and Executive Councillors not required to support one another by speech or by vote, but only to sit side by side and not oppose each other in public? In addition to the nominated non-officials there are, at least five distinct political parties—Ministerialists, Progressive Non-Brahmans, Independent Nationalists, Muhammadans and Swarajists. Surely, it is a combination to tax the most astute intellect of the stoniest heart and yet you have met them all in a way that it seemed the more awkward and the greater the difficulties you had to face, the more alert and the more resourceful your brain became. (Applause.)

"Sir, more than that, you had to work a system of diarchy which, as my friends have already said has no parallel in the world. Sir, I may say with absolute sincerity and realizing the value of every word that I use that your Presidentship of this Council has been an unqualified success. (Applause.) I may say that first and foremost you have been most sincerely anxious to assert the dignity and the privileges of this House. After all is said and done, there is this thing to be said about the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms that they have created large legislatures with elected majorities which if only they are organised properly and the powers given thereunder are wisely used, even these Councils can be used as a field for the struggle for Swaraj. (Cheers.) Therefore, Sir, you were anxious to assert from the very beginning the privileges, the authority and the dignity of this House. You watched them with a jealous eye and never yielded to any other consideration in the discharge of the onerous and anxious duties you had to discharge.

"The second great quality which you have brought to bear upon the discharge of your duties is your thorough impartiality. Sir, it is very difficult to be impartial in a House of this kind, because it is very difficult for human nature not to give way to human weaknesses, but you have risen above them all in a most magnificent manner; and in every ruling you have given, every order you have made and in the way in which you have conducted the debate, you have shown that before you every Member is the equal of every other Member in this House and that no Member has more privileges than others, or less rights and less privileges than others; and if you have sometimes rebuked us on this side of the House, I may say, in no spirit of mischief, and you will pardon me for that, you have also rebuked those on the other side of the House. (Laughter and applause.)

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"Sir, the last and the greatest quality which has made the proceedings of this House not only dignified but also attractive to some of us who have come here for the first time, is your keen gift of alertness and your keener sense of humour. Nothing happens here of which you are not at once aware, and, in difficult corners you rounded them off with such wellmeant jokes that not only the House laughed but the victim also laughed. It is the greatest gift which any man can possess and which you have brought to bear on the discharge of your duties.

"Reference has been made to the fact that when the history of India comes to be written, your name will find a conspicuous and important place there. I echo that sentiment, and in doing so I only want to quote two sentences from a great writer on the Speakers of the House of Commons, who says thus :

'Politicians and parties may come and go, changes may and must occur in the aims and aspirations of the democracy of England (I will say, of the democracy of India), but the Speaker's office unfettered by the exigencies of party and administered in a lofty and impartial spirit will endure as long as the Constitution itself.'

"This has been the characteristic of your policy which, I am sure, will endure as long as the Indian Constitution itself. Within the last three years, Sir, you have brought to bear on the discharge of your duties here such a wealth of information, such an amount of dignity and, above all, such a keen sense of humour that you have built up traditions which, if they are only kept up by your successors, they need no more. As a Swarajist and as belonging to a party which has been and which continues to be misrepresented, I would like to pay this humble tribute of respect for the way in which you have understood our aims and aspirations, if I may say so, and for the way in which you have dealt with us. I know this that the time will soon come, however much our friends here may laugh at the prospect, that for the nine Swarajists we have now here, there will be 90 at the next elections. (Laughter) Sir, when that time comes, I ask for no more than this, that we should have in that Chair a man who will bring to bear on the discharge of his duties the same impartiality of conduct and the same independent judgment which you have brought to bear upon them.

"With these few words, I have great pleasure in associating myself with this Motion. I will only say with regard to your future, that wherever you are and whatever you may do, the affection and the blessings of your friends in this country will follow you (prolonged cheers). I may say in the words of the Sanskrit poet: शिवास्तु ते पन्थानः सन्तु ।"

Mr. ABBAS ALI KHAN:—"Mr. President, I rise with feelings of regret, with feelings of sorrow and with feelings of joy: regret because, after a long and honourable association with us lasting for three years, you are leaving our midst: joy because you are leaving our shores to take up a very high office in a strange and foreign land. I am sure, from that country, England, where human liberty has taken root and has spread to other parts of the world and under whose branches we are flourishing, you will continue to evince to the Madras Council the same affectionate interest which you have evinced till now.

"Sir, your personality, your humour and your persuasive eloquence which command the respect and admiration of every Member of this House, are all combinations which could not be found in any other Presidency in the whole of India. So much so, Sir, you are the ablest President of all the Legislatures of India. (Applause.)

[Mr. Abbas Ali Khan]

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"Sir, generations after when the historians come to write a book similar to the 'Speakers of the House of Commons', your name as the first President of the Reformed Council of Madras, will appear in it as a proud example for the coming generations to follow and to emulate.

"Sir, I may remind you of a joke that I played on you. When I first came to this Council three years ago, you appeared to be severe towards the younger Members of the House that 'the Hindu' likened you to a school-master who with his stentorian voice, kept the boys in their seats, and we were inclined to take a mischievous view of it all. That treatment was so revolting to us that we wanted to play a practical joke upon you. So, Sir, when the Members of this House gave a tea party to His Excellency Lord Willingdon, you will remember you gave a most interesting speech. After the lapse of about five minutes, I got hold of your bell, through the courtesy of Mr. Swamikannu Pillai, and rung it which interrupted you in the midst of your speech. (Laughter.) Sir, after that you have never enforced the time limit and you have been giving us a certain amount of free play which, I hope, your successors would always extend to us.

"Sir, you have always shown great kindness and courtesy to the Muhammadan members of this House and rescued us from many a complicated situation. May I, Sir, as an example of this kindness, remind members of the excellent way in which you saved us from a situation, a very awkward situation in which the Muhammadan members were placed a few days ago by an amendment to a Resolution of Mr. Khalif-ul-lah? Sir, on that occasion you saved us by a very tactful and statesmanlike suggestion. For this and for many more like this, we are very thankful to you.

4-30 p.m. "Sir, I do not want to mar the effects of the thrilling oration which we have heard from speaker after speaker, but I wish to do my humble best and I have great pleasure in supporting the motion that has been so ably and eloquently moved by the hon. the Leader of the House. And I hope, Sir, that you will be spared for long and that you will have very many years of rest and quiet before you, so that you may bring to bear on the new office the same erudition, the same courtesy of manner and the same precision that you have always shown in this House."

Mr. A. J. LEECH :—"Mr. President, I should like to join my voice in appreciation of your work done here and I may assure you that I am voicing the feeling of the European non-official Members of this House. We regret your departure, but our loss is India's gain, and we cannot regret it on that account. I have only been in this House for one year, but I have been very much impressed at the way in which you have conducted it through the intricacies of the debate and the humour and tact you have shown in doing so. It is said that a good fish in the sea has never been caught yet. In this House a good deal of doubt has been expressed as to where the good fish is to come from. Sir, you were one of those who even when refusing a request did so in a happy manner and the refusal was accepted with greater pleasure than would be the case even if it were acceded to. It is all your manner that makes the difference. I would like to associate myself with all those who spoke on the Motion and wish you all fortune in your new work."

Mr. C. GOPALA MENON :—"In this great valedictory function in honour of the much-respected and talented President of this Council, Diwan Bahadur Sir P. Rajagopala Achariyar, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., who sits for the last

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[Mr. C. Gopala Menon]\

time to-day as the Speaker of this House, I crave permission to have the privilege of adding my humble tribute of appreciation of his great career to those that have already been paid to him in the most eloquent terms by some of the hon. Members of this Council. The previous speakers have started a general chorus of well-deserved praise to him, each one dwelling on that aspect of our hon. the President's work as impressed him most or suited his particular angle of vision. But mine is a distinctive duty on behalf of my constituency, the Southern India Chamber of Commerce, which I wish to perform to the best of my lights. Though I have not had the privilege of close intimacy or long friendship with our revered President, yet as a humble admirer of his genius, versatility, rare tact and the resourceful driving power he has brought to bear on the work of this new Council in the opening sessions of its career, my humble tribute is none the less warm. Unlike the past Council, the present Council is a complex composition, a body made out of diverse political parties of elected members, and to control the humours of the fray and guide the debates of such heterogeneous elements is a most trying and herculean task indeed. From the little I have seen our President's work after my connexion with this Council, I am led to hold him as the greatest asset of this House and we could ill-afford to lose his marvellous services just at this critical period of the existence of this Council. Tact has been the outstanding qualification of Sir Rajagopala Achariyar which has crowned his long and varied career in the public service with signal success. Whether as a Member of the Provincial Civil Service, as the doyen of the co-operative movement or as the Diwan of two important Native States or as Secretary to Government or as a Member of the Executive Council, he has been singularly successful and extremely popular with all classes and creeds. His sympathies know no geographical or race limitations and equipped with such invaluable qualities of the head and the heart he came to be our Mr. Speaker, the reins of which exalted and onerous office he is laying down to-day to the great regret of us all; but our only consolation is, what is loss to this Council is re-appearing as gain to us in the Council of the Secretary of State for India where his ripe experience and knowledge of affairs and sturdy independence and unrivalled tact will serve him, I am sure, in excellent stead in fighting our cause. Illustrious indeed is the muster-roll of those great Indian patriots who, after consecrating their lives to the service of this country, have earned an undying glory in the memory of the Indian nation. Sir Rajagopala Achariyar belongs to this glorious category and the prayers of his grateful countrymen attend him in his new career in England again for our benefit. Gentlemen, parting in this case is such sweet sorrow that I shall reluctantly say 'good-bye' until it be to-morrow. I wish him God-speed in the new exalted office which he is called upon to fill and I offer my humble prayers to heaven to bless Sir Rajagopala Achariyar with long life, robust health and successful career for the benefit of the land of his birth."

Rao Bahadur O. TANIKACHALA CHETTIYAR :—" Sir, may I be permitted to add my tribute of humble praise on this occasion? Sir, your fairness, your firmness, that characteristic of being ever wide awake has rendered the success of this Council more than that of any other Council in India. Sir, on occasions when feeling ran high in this House, when, as it were, the atmosphere was surcharged with controversy, occasions which gave rise to Motions for adjournment of the House, your rulings on points of order and on the privileges of Members to speak freely and frankly about the acts and

[Mr. O. Tanikachala Chettiya]

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omissions of various parties have made you the most outstanding feature in this distinguished assembly. Sir, your way whether at the instance of the rich or of the poor, of the high or the low, have been marked only by a sense of fairness and justice, and the latest instance of it is the ruling which you gave yesterday when claims were made on behalf of His Excellency for the prerogative of making high appointments. Your ruling is bound to be of value not only to this Council but to Councils all over India, for your ruling would have cut at the root of all responsible Government if it was not what it had been yesterday. Not merely the Members of this Council, but members of all Councils and citizens of the whole of this British Indian Empire must be thankful to you. Sir, we shall be missing your guiding hand, but we hope that your successors will inherit those good qualities of yours which have made for the success of this Council, and that they may administer the affairs of this Council in the same manner in which you have done. Sir, under the Reforms Act it was intended that the President of the Council shall be chosen by the Members themselves, but for the first four years it shall be by the nomination of His Excellency the Governor. Who can say that the choice of His Excellency has not been fully justified by the success which has attended this Council under your presidency, Sir? On one occasion Lord Curzon said when he was congratulated on being appointed the Viceroy of India, 'the occasion for congratulation is not when one dons the armour but when one doffs it'. I do not believe that Lord Curzon had that privilege of receiving congratulations when he laid down the office. But, Sir, you have it to-day (loud cheers). Sir, in spite of your past record as a bureaucrat and an official you have succeeded beyond all expectations, in a measure which we did not anticipate at the time of your assuming office. Sir, with these words I wish you God-speed. I only wish to say, Sir, while you are going away from this Council you are only going to another sphere where you shall be of as much usefulness to your King and country and your countrymen here. With these words, I heartily associate myself with the Mover of the Resolution."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"Mr. President, Sir, I feel thankful for allowing me to associate myself with all the fine sentiments that have been expressed by the previous speakers. Sir, my contact with you began in the year 1915 when you were in the role of a bureaucrat, and in spite of my great admiration for your great intellect I was always feeling that you did not cast your lot for the nation but chose to cast your lot with the bureaucrats. It was rumoured in the press at the time when the Reformed Council was coming into being that you would be appointed President of the new Council, and then I with some others had my own doubts as to the fitness of the choice. Some time thence it was said that Sir Sankaran Nayar, who just then resigned his Membership of the Imperial Council, would be appointed as President. Some of us had our own feelings in the matter. These are confessions, Sir. But when we came into the new Council some of us did watch you with suspicion. After the Council worked for a month or two, all our suspicions were gone, and we did feel completely that you had thrown off your official cloak and assumed the real role of a non-official. Our admiration for you as President of this Council day by day increased. We have nothing but all admiration for the splendid manner in which you discharged the duties of a President. We felt always that one feeling did animate you in giving decisions for the occasion, that you had the future of this House and the future of the nation before you. If this House had made up precedents of a far-reaching character, it was on account of your high eminence and your

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intellectual and other qualities. And we have every one of us felt your decisions as very impartial and we always admired the fitness of your decisions and the way in which you were able to control the House. Though you were sitting silent, you were guiding the deliberations by the various changing phases of your face. And it was always taken by some of us as the true index of real guidance. Sir, I don't want to depreciate in any way the merits of our Deputy President or of the panel of chairmen that have occupied the chair from time to time. But they will be pleased to permit me to mention that myself and others did feel the absence of yourself from the chair on many occasions. If that was the case in the past, you may easily understand what our misgivings are as to the future of this House. I hope the great pains you have taken in establishing great precedents will be of valuable guidance to your followers not only here but all over India, in setting up very desirable Parliamentary methods in this House as well as elsewhere."

4-45 p.m. Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—" Mr. President, Sir, in trying to estimate and realize the loss which will be caused by"

Mr. ABBAS ALI KHAN :—" May I rise to a point of order, Sir? I do not hear the hon. Member (laughter). "

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—" your approaching departure from these shores, one naturally tries to think of the difficulties with which you were faced when you entered upon your duties. As a result of our being the heirs of the ages of English constitutional history we have been here endowed with a fairly well defined constitution and a ready-made procedure, so that you, Sir, have not had to face the difficulties and go through the experiences which Speakers of the House of Commons have had to face and go through. Yours, for instance, was not the experience of that Speaker of the English House of Commons in March 1629 when the famous Resolutions called the Eliot Resolutions were passed, and the Speaker had to be kept down by main force in his Chair by two doughty Members of the House forcing him down into a position from which he wanted to extricate himself. Again, Sir, yours was not the experience of the Speaker in 1642, when he found the House of Commons raided by Charles I who wanted to find Pym and others, the five inconvenient Members of the House of Commons. It was on this occasion, Sir, that Speaker Lenthall uttered the famous saying that

' the Speaker of the House of Commons had neither eyes to see nor ears to hear nor tongue to speak but as the House was pleased to direct ',

and in so many words the Speaker told the King to go about his business. Nor again, Sir, was yours the unfortunate experience of that other Speaker of the Stuart reign who complained that an hon. Member of the House, instead of taking off his hat to him, had put out his tongue and snapped his fingers at him. (Laughter) Your difficulties and your experiences have been entirely different. Probably, the most important and the most serious difficulty with which you were faced was that when you took up the presidentship of the new Reformed Council, you found a Council of a very heterogenous character and of a non-descript kind before you. It was a Council which had no soul in it, and into which no life had been breathed. There was of course the party system, but no party however well organized it may be can give life to the Council. It is the President and it is the President alone that gives that life, and it is the President that can give an assembly its soul. It was you, Sir, that from the beginning, by an exhibition of the greatest qualities of leadership and of presidentship, gave a soul to the Reformed

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Legislative Council by binding the members of the various parties and sections into one with the silken cords of a loyal though insistent obedience to your most efficient leadership. I may confess, Sir, that I myself, as also many hon. Members of this House and many outside the House, had an apprehension as to how you would conduct yourself in your position. You came to this Chair with a great reputation as a successful bureaucrat. It is customary to speak of a man who has done well in a career of a lifetime that he is an old hand at the game. But what are we to say of you, Sir, who seem to be an old hand at every new game? You have not been born under the shadow of the Speaker's Chair, but you seem to have been a born President.

"Many of your achievements as President of this Legislative Council have been already referred to. May I, Sir, as a private Member contribute one more to the list, and that is your defence of the rights of the private Member. In many of your decisions on points of order, I seemed to detect, in fact, a partiality for the private Member, and a defence of the privileges of minorities. (Hear, hear.) On many an occasion, Sir, if I may say so, without offence, I detected in your decisions leading questions or suggestions that seemed to give the private Member a clue as to what he should do in order to keep down the pretensions of the Members of the Government Front Bench. (Laughter and cheers.)

"In bidding you farewell, Sir, we cannot lose sight of the great duties and obligations that lie in wait for you in England, where you are going as a Member of the Secretary of State's Council. We can trust you, Sir, to give the Members of that Council a bit of your mind, and from all accounts they require it very badly. And I hope, Sir, that having been in living touch with the feelings and aspirations of this Assembly, you will give those sundried bureaucrats a bit of our mind. In conclusion, Sir, allow me to wish you God-speed, good luck and frequent returns to the country of your birth."

Rao Bahadur P. RAMAN :—"Mr. President, Sir, on behalf of the Thiyyar community to which I belong and which I have the honour to represent in this Council, I beg leave to thank you most respectfully and sincerely for the very great sympathy you have always shown to my community and for the deep interest you have always taken in its welfare and advancement. May God grant you long life, happiness and prosperity is our humble and earnest prayer. I assure you, Sir, that this prayer and the gratitude of my community will always accompany you wherever you go."

Mr. P. V. GOPALAN :—"Mr. President, Sir, while associating myself with the sentiments expressed by the hon. the Leader of this House and other hon. Members, I, on behalf of the fisherman community, most respectfully beg to thank you, Sir, for the very kind sympathy you have evinced on our behalf, ever since you came in touch with them, by recommending to appoint one of them as a sub-magistrate for the first time and opportunity, one of them as a gazetted officer and nominating two of them as municipal councillors. All these are the outcome of your broad and liberal heart and the sympathy you have for the backward and the depressed classes. While you were in Malabar as a Revenue Divisional Officer, I remember, many of us were considering you as the redeemer of the down-trodden. I, Sir, on behalf of my community, wish you a bright future, good health, happiness and prosperity in your new sphere of life. With these few words, I have very great pleasure in supporting the Motion which has been made by the hon. the Leader of the House."

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MR. R. SRINIVASAN :—“ Mr. President, Sir, on behalf of the depressed classes, I beg to convey our sincere gratitude to you for the courtesy and sympathy you have always shown towards us. For the last three years I have been attending this Council and watching its proceedings, and whenever the question of the depressed classes came, I have always found you to have been just and impartial. I understand, Sir, that you are leaving this Council to take up the appointment of a Member of the India Council in England, and it is our hope that while there you will always remember the depressed and oppressed classes and continue to take your usual deep interest in them. I request you, Sir, to do all in your power to uplift this unfortunate community, the untouchables, of whom so much is talked and about whom movements are set on foot, and remove untouchability—for Swaraj depends on the removal of untouchability.”

MR. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ Mr. President, Sir, in you I meet a familiar personality which I have long ago begun to admire and love, but the subject on which we are assembled to address you to-day is, however, a most unfamiliar one. When I rise to do my duty of associating myself with what has already been said on this Motion, the most obsessing sense, namely, that of envy, comes upon me. There are here, Sir, Members who, to use the simile of my hon. Friend Mr. Abbas Ali Khan, have been your pupils for over three years. I remember having read in the papers of that time how even the hon. the First Minister had to be taught by you that for supplementary questions time could be asked for, and I enjoyed it, and all the world enjoyed it. Many people, especially myself, have had the advantage of taking lessons from you only for the last few weeks. But, I have known you, Sir, as a judge, in which capacity rising above technicalities, you meted out substantial justice. I say that, Sir, because where technicalities would have sent many a man to the gallows, they were grateful to you for your having saved their lives. We also know, Sir, how as Co-operative Registrar you came to know not only the people but you felt for the people and oftentimes you lived like the poor. I remember very well how, in trying to persuade the people of a far-off village in the Chingleput district, you had to take shelter on a pial, and even though in a neighbouring temple *pongal* was being distributed you went starving. Therefore, Sir, you know at first hand how the poor live. And long after your retirement your work on behalf of Co-operation will be a standing monument of your life and your work for the people. I know also how when you became Member of the Executive Council the ship of local self-government was steered. I may also give a short story current at that time as to how on one occasion a zamindar member of a local board objected to a member belonging to the depressed classes sitting by his side or in the same body, and how you ran to that village and showed your sympathy for the depressed classes. Therefore, Sir, every department that was for the time being entrusted to you was managed in such a sympathetic and efficient manner.

“ As Diwan, Sir, the House can recall to mind the amount of unpopularity
5 p.m. you had to face at one time and how the newspapers went against you, and how you calmly faced it. But those very people who criticized you then are blessing you now. That is due to the soundness of your views and the statesmanship you brought to bear in the discharge of your many duties.

“ If now on this Proposition so many people from all parts of the House are united and are coming forward in unusually large numbers to speak, it is

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because, Sir, of those humane qualities and that strong sense of humour which have so eminently characterized you and which have ever stood you in good stead; and I am sure those very qualities will equally stand you in good stead in the higher sphere of work on which you are about to enter. I do not want to call it 'higher' because I do not think any other sphere can be higher than that occupied by one who is presiding over the destinies of this House. Moreover, Sir, we are all glad that you are going to a sphere where services of people like you are now most needed. There are imperial questions which are casting a gloomy shadow upon this land, such, for instance, as questions connected with Kenya and South Africa (a voice: 'and the reduction of the impost')—yes, I add, the reduction of the impost also—and although you are leaving us, you will be doing us substantial service in those important branches of work in the far-off land. But there is only one thing, and that is, there might be some difficulty in reconciling ourselves to the fact that you, Sir, in your old age, should undertake this long journey. But I may be permitted to tell the House that Sir Jagadis Chandra Bose has shown to us how even an aged and weathered tree can be transplanted, and my only prayer is that the same tree, even though it becomes more weathered, should be retransplanted once more to its own native soil, and I may promise you, Sir, even a grander welcome when you come back to us.

“With these few words, I heartily support the Motion.”

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—“Sir, I have been hearing the words of admiration and thankfulness expressed by Member after Member with considerable feelings of regret. The hon. the Leader of the House has expressed our sentiments, as every one present here will admit, in a beautiful form and expressed with force and warmth. I thought he was for once transformed into a Swarajist when he was giving you praise for conducting the proceedings of this House with great impartiality and also for taking us along the path of that great liberty leading to the realization of Responsible Government. We are really grateful to the Leader of the House for his whole-hearted speech.

“I have considered myself to have been very fortunate indeed in having lived under your shadow, Sir, as the Deputy President of this House, during the last three years, and I am personally beholden to you, Sir, very deeply. Of course, I have known you for years together; but I have known you mostly as a public man. I lived in a far-off village in the interior part of a district, and so I could not come in contact with bigger folks very closely; I could only watch them from a distance. I have been always watching you with very great admiration. It so happened that I was enabled to come in contact with you more intimately only during the last three years, and I have felt your kindness very deeply. I remember very well, Sir, when I was about to be sent over to British Guiana at the age of 62, that I needed somebody's blessings for that. Of course, I had somehow plucked up courage to go at this age, and you gave me that blessing not only in the speech in this House, which I would ever treasure up, but also in your private capacity as a Brahman. You did not make any difference between man and man, between caste and caste, or between members of the lower class and members of the higher class. That is indeed the true quality of a Brahman. I think it was, Sir, mainly through your blessings that I came back here to be again elected Vice-President with the unanimous voice of my hon. Friends in this House. Sir, my Friend Mr. Narasimha Raju said that he felt your absence

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when some of us sat there. That is exactly so. Mr. T. P. O'Connor once said that the House of Commons was sometimes like a boys' school and sometimes like a girls' school, and it required strong men, like you, Sir, to keep it in order. It is but natural that monitors should feel very nervous in the presence of such stalwarts like my hon. Friend, Mr. Narasimha Raju, and I have myself felt your absence also on occasions (laughter). Sir, you have throughout kept up your good humour. I am told that it is a rare quality peculiar to the British race, but I am sure you will make them realize that they were rather mistaken in their conceit. When you go there and meet them, they will be very glad to see and enjoy your good humour and that in such an abundance. I am sure Sir Charles Todhunter will support me in my view that among our men also we have such rare gems who possess that good humour which is so helpful to do good work. Of course, he did not claim that trait as a special characteristic of his own race. I am sure, Sir, your good humour, your tact and your knowledge of human nature will win for you many more friends in England. I am hopeful and confident you are going to render very great service to us, and it is only in that belief that we can console ourselves in your absence from this country. It is very well known how at times when there was clash of interests between different individuals in this House, you were able by your good humour and by your impartiality to still all strifes and bring them back to a good sense of humour. It is said of course that there were no scenes in this House at all. We hear of so many scenes in the mother of Parliaments, but there have been no scenes in this new Council. With all the Swarajists and with all sorts of elements present here, everything went on in order."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"It is not our fault, Sir." (Laughter).

Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI:—"What does that show, Sir? It shows that all hon. Members here belong to the same gentle race. They are not likely to fight with their fists. They would exchange hot words; and at times they would be very acrimonious in the remarks; but I am sure it is the characteristic of the Indian race that they are a people naturally genial in their manners, though sometimes harsh in their expressions, and we have in this House some of the best specimens of our race.

"You will kindly permit me, Sir, to make one or two more remarks. I have been in the Legislative Council under Lord Cross' Act, and again I have been in the Legislative Council under Lord Morley's Act. Then the Chairman was His Excellency the Governor of the time. He came to the House with all the gubernatorial authority and took the Chair. Then the Members had a good deal of trepidation to express themselves. It was not always very easy to most of us to express our feelings straight because we were afraid of the Governor in the Chair lest we would be offending the dignity of the Governor, and it might be that our conduct might be taken notice of by the district authorities who were all Governor's men. Hence, not only there was not always the true expression of our opinions, but sometimes there was a good deal of the suppression of our feelings. But, Sir, in this Council His Excellency the Governor has very wisely chosen to appoint you as its first President. You came with all the bureaucratic traditions. You had held power. You have used it for the benefit of the people and for the uplift of many poor classes of men. That I know. But with all that, I thought your judgment might be warped by the past traditions and the past way in which you conducted yourself as an official, as one of the other side,

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But, Sir, you have been able to shed all those things. You have been able to clear yourself from all such entanglements and you have rather more or less proved a true friend and philosopher of the new Council. This is the transitional period; you are, as it were, a link between the past and the future. Hereafter the Speaker of this House will be elected from among its own Members who will at once be the servant of the House and who will control its Members with their consent. But, here, you have the authority behind you of His Excellency the Governor, and yet, Sir, the great quality of yours was that you associated yourself with all the Members of your Council as if you were one of them. That is a great credit, I think, for which we have to be thankful to His Excellency Lord Willingdon for having appointed you to this House. Sir, as I said, I am very fortunate because so great a statesman like you has been to most of us so good a friend. Every one claims to have received benefits from you. Many families are indebted to you and many public men are also indebted to you for the help you have given them. I do not know if there is another person in this Presidency who could claim such a large number of people who would feel grateful to you for the help you have given them, for the advice you have given them and for the many benefits you have conferred on them and on their children.

"I beg to support the Motion with all my heart and you will carry our best wishes and prayers in your new task."

5-15 p.m. Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—Mr. President, we must thank the Leader of the House for having on this occasion portrayed the unanimous feeling of this Council with such complete fulness and accuracy. The fact, Sir, is that there is nothing more at all to add to the very admirable statement in which he gave expression to the mingled feelings and sentiment with which we have now met on this occasion. We have to bid an official farewell, and though we all know that you are going to another sphere from which you will be able to serve the interests of your country even better than you have done so far, and though there is much in this translation to England which we have to rejoice in both on account of your personal and your physical comfort and the interests of the country at large, still on the whole the feeling on this occasion is one of sorrow at the separation. The Motion moved by the Leader of the House refers to the respect and esteem in which you have been held—I don't know if I could ask you to suspend any standing order to move an amendment—and I would certainly add affection. For there is no exaggeration in saying that you have been to us something more than a mere President, almost the presiding genius of this Council Chamber, who advised us, guided us, and saw to it that both as individuals and as Members of this Council we maintained the highest possible goal and level. Your presiding over this Council is a responsible and difficult task and you have become a genius as it were. That is a thing that is not going to be given to every one who occupies that position. It has been said that strict impartiality is a very difficult thing. I think I am voicing the feelings of all here when I say that whatever may be said by way of criticism or disparagement about this or that act, there is but one feature, namely, that you have been the one undoubted success of diarchy, not merely in this Presidency, but in the whole of India. This scheme is a difficult one, and it could not have been worked to the extent to which it has been without the rulings of the President which, as it were, gave flesh and blood to the discussions. My hon. Friends on both sides of the House have said a great deal about the qualities that you have brought to bear to the discharge of your high duties and the reasons

15th December 1923] [Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi]

for the great triumph that you have achieved as President of this Chamber. I do not intend to embark on an analysis of it on my own account; but it has struck me, as it has struck many other people, that the key to your career both as President and in your various other capacities might be found in that broad human sympathy which is so predominant a feature in you, Sir. It is that which explains that historic order by which you threw open all Government and public schools for the entry of people regarded by the orthodox as untouchable. It is that which explains how—no matter in whatever situation you are placed, with what people you are brought face to face—you succeeded in a very short time in winning their confidence and affection; and your rulings which are going to be the traditions of the future were all conceived in that broad human sympathy, and not in that narrow pedantic legal spirit. It is said that rules exist for the Councils but the Councils do not exist for the rules. Sir, this ship of diarchy has taken its trial run under your captainship and I do not know if an abler skipper could have been found. You must have by now examined it and judged as to how far it is seaworthy whether it is fitted as a fairweather ship or it might stand changing weather amidst squalls and storms. At all events, so far, we have had no official indication of your opinion. But this we in Madras could make ourselves perfectly certain about that so far as human factors and human elements could be responsible for the success of the scheme they have been abundantly supplied both by His Excellency and my hon. Friend, the Leader of the House, and above all—I don't say it in a mere spirit of comparison—by you as President of the Chamber. Sir, it is very difficult to speak on an occasion of this kind, because much might be said by way of a review of your work, still it is not the reasoning faculty that is at present predominant but rather our feelings, this sense of separation and a kind of apprehension, whether well or ill-founded, as to how this Council will get on without you. The one question that every hon. Member is asking himself on this occasion is perhaps this: can that chair be what it is without you, whom we have now come to regard as part of that chair, as part of the institution almost? Wise precedents have been laid down, but that genial personality, I suppose, is a thing which we cannot always command at our will. The answer that comes at the present moment is one that is charged with pessimism, and I do hope that events will falsify our apprehensions. Speaking perhaps as the one who speaks last on this occasion, I would like to express on behalf of all the Members of this Council our unanimous gratitude for all the love and kindness which you showed to us both as individuals and as Members of this House for the wise guidance you have given us and above all for the courage and dignity with which you have maintained the liberties of this Council with which are bound up our constitutional liberties. We wish you every success in your new walk of life and we know that whatever career you enter upon you will succeed completely and in wishing you that success we will always request you, whether officially or unofficially, to keep yourself in touch with us and continue to be the mentor and the friend that you have always been to the Council, to the Members here, and to this Presidency." (Loud cheers).

The Motion was put and carried amidst thunderous applause.

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move that this Resolution be recorded as having been agreed to *nemine contradicente*, or rather unanimously, I may say, by way of amendment.

[Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar] [15th December 1923]

"Mr. President, it is a matter of some difficulty for me to speak on this occasion about you. After the death of my father, I always regarded you in that light. Through my struggling professional days, you helped me with your succour and guidance. On a very important occasion, junior though I was, you singled me out for a great honour, and without diverging into personal recollections let me say that you are responsible, largely instrumental, in having converted me from a non-official into an official. (Laughter.) You also, at a time when thus bound up by family ties of friendship and comradeship, we were still poles apart in politics, yet helped me and guided me with sage advice, on many an important occasion. It is therefore very difficult for me to speak on this occasion with a proper amount of prespective and proportion, but I should have deemed myself unworthy of the common ties and proper instincts if I did not take upon myself this opportunity to express what I felt in regard to your discharge of the duties as President of this Chamber. Great and eloquent tributes have been paid, and I shall not strive to reduplicate what has been said and said so well. There is a Latin maxim which translated signifies that a person may be suave in manner but strong in action, *suaviter in modo, fortiter in re*. That has been the characteristic of your life, official as well as non-official. Complete courtesy and the graces of life were never divorced from strength and firmness of resolve and action, and as President you displayed that combination of noble qualities which in the Roman days were considered the equipment of a great man as making a complete man. That is my homage to you, Sir, and I take this occasion to pay it." (Cheers.)

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—"I second it."

The Motion, that the Resolution be recorded as having been agreed to unanimously, was then put and carried amidst cheers.

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—"Mr. President, I ask your permission to present you, on behalf of the hon. Members here present, with a copy of the Resolution which has just been passed, with the signatures of the Members."

The hon. Sir Charles Todhunter then presented the copy of the Resolution enclosed in a silver casket mounted on ebony to the hon. the President.

The hon. the PRESIDENT, who on rising was loudly cheered, said :—"May I crave a few minutes of the time of the House in order to thank hon. Members for the Vote which they have just recorded so unanimously and for this valuable present which I will always cherish with feelings of gratitude? The terms of the Resolution, coming as it does from the most august Assembly in this province, make me feel that I have been amply rewarded for any service that I may have rendered to it in my capacity as President during the last three years. I have in the past held several offices both in this Presidency and elsewhere, some of them high offices; but in none of them have I been conscious of such a heavy sense of responsibility as in the one that I shall soon vacate. (Hear, hear!). I recall the feeling of great anxiety with which I entered upon my duties on the 17th December 1920; and it is, and will always be to me, a source of great pride and gratification that I quite early gained the confidence of the House and have, according to its unanimous verdict now given, maintained it unimpaired to the end.

"The reputation which this House deservedly enjoys all over India is, I am glad to think, a happy augury for the future. The temper of the House—

15th December 1923]

[The President]

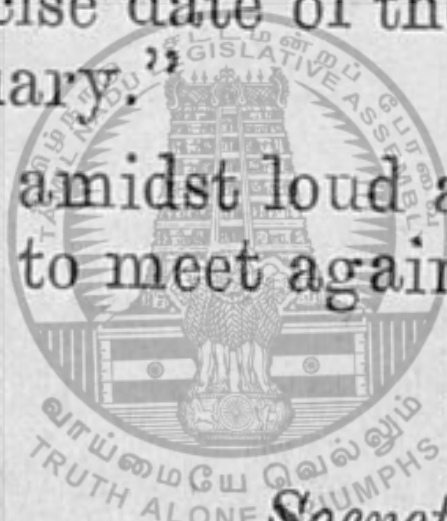
I refer to the last Council as well as to the present one—has been, I may say without flattery, excellent; and the level of its debates, of a high order. I am confident that as the years proceed, the House will grow in usefulness and efficiency, and that it will furnish the best proof that can be furnished of the capacity of the people of this Presidency for full responsible Government.

“I would be wanting in gratitude if I did not pay a special tribute to the Members of the Government as well as to the Leaders of the Opposition, each section of whom have so ably and willingly aided me in the arduous task of guiding the deliberations of this House. I desire also to mention with gratitude the co-operation of those who have been aptly described as being in the House though not of it, namely, the Secretary of the Council office (cheers) and his staff, the staff of official reporters and the reporters of the newspaper press, all of whom have contributed to the success of this Council. (Cheers.)

“In conclusion, let me wish godspeed to all hon. Members of this House; and, in so doing, I pray that this House may, under the dispensation of Providence, last and grow in wisdom and in strength, in purpose and in fulfilment, for all time to come. (Loud cheers.)

“The House will now adjourn to some day in January after the 15th. I am not now able to give the precise date of the next meeting, so I will say, to some date after the 15th of January.”

The hon. the President then, amidst loud and continued cheering, left the Chair, and the House adjourned to meet again in January 1924.



L. D. SWAMIKANNU,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

[15th December 1923]

APPENDIX.

[Vide page 510 supra.]

G.O. No. 55, Railway, dated 10th December 1923.**READ—the following papers :—**

G.O. No. 21, Railway, dated 24th April 1923.

G.O. No. 40, Railway, dated 18th August 1923.

Order—No. 55, Railway, dated 10th December 1923.

In accordance with suggestions put forward by the Railway Board, the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway among other Railway administrations has decided to form a Local Advisory Committee at Madras. The constitution of the committee and its duties are set out in the Agent's notice of the 1st of September 1923, which is printed as an appendix to these Proceedings.

2. The Railway Company are desirous of having the assistance of two members of the Legislative Council as members of the committee and have asked the Government of Madras to nominate two gentlemen accordingly.

The Government would be quite ready to act upon this suggestion but consider that it would be preferable if the selection could be made by the members of the Legislative Council themselves and they would be prepared to communicate to the Agent of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway for inclusion in his committee any two names that may be submitted to them by the Legislative Council.

(By order of the Governor in Council)

E. BARNARDISTON,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D. (Railways).

To the Secretary, Legislative Council.

Copy to the Agent, Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway.
„ Law (Legislative) Department.

15th December 1923]

APPENDIX

THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY
COMPANY, LIMITED.

No. T. 6656/I-D.

AGENT'S OFFICE,
Madras, 1st September 1923.

Rules relating to Local Advisory Committee.

The Committee shall consist of a Chairman and not less than eight nor more than eleven other members.

Constitution
of Committee.

2. The Agent of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway shall be ex-officio Chairman of the Committee. The Agent shall appoint a senior officer of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company to act for him during his absence.

Appointment
of Chairman
and Railway
members.

The Agent shall appoint the General Traffic Manager, Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, a member of the Committee.

3. Not more than two Government members shall be appointed by the Government of Madras. Two representatives of the Legislative Council of the Government of Madras may be appointed by the Government of Madras. One member shall be appointed by the Government of Bombay. One member shall be appointed by the Government of Mysore.

Appointment
of nominated
members.

4. The remaining members shall consist of—

Election of
members.

One member elected by the members for the time being of the Corporation of Madras,

One by the members for the time being of the Chamber of Commerce,

One by the members for the time being of the Southern India Chamber of Commerce, and

One by the members for the time being of the Indian Passengers Association.

5. The members of the Committee shall hold office for a term of two years commencing from the 1st April. Any person ceasing to be a member shall be eligible for re-appointment on re-election.

Term of office
of member.

6. The Committee shall meet together and shall from time to time make such arrangements with respect to the day, hour, notice, management and adjournment of its meetings as it may think fit, subject to the following conditions, viz. :—

Meetings for
transactions
of business.

(a) That a meeting shall be held ordinarily once a month.

(b) That the Chairman may whenever he thinks fit, call a special meeting.

(c) That no business shall be transacted unless at least four members are present throughout such meeting.

(d) That every meeting shall be presided over by the Agent if he is present; if, and when he is absent, by such Senior Officer of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company as may be appointed by him.

[15th December 1923]

(e) That minutes shall be kept of the names of the members present and of the proceedings of each meeting in a book to be provided for this purpose which shall be signed as soon as practicable by the Chairman of such meeting and shall be open to inspection by any member of the Committee.

(f) The Chairman may, with the consent of the meeting, adjourn it.

Functions of
Committee.

7. The functions of the Advisory Committee shall be purely advisory, as its name implies. Questions of personnel, discipline and appointments will not be brought before the Committee. The Committee shall have no authority to inquire into or interfere in any way with the general administration of the Railway. The Committee shall have no authority to act as Conciliation Board. The Agent may, however, at any time, if he thinks fit, ask for the advice of his Advisory Committee on any matter, including questions which may arise out of the settlement of a strike.

In the event of any question arising before the Committee in regard to the limit of its functions, the decision of the Chairman shall be final, subject to any orders that may be issued by the Railway Board and the Board of Directors of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, to whom the question shall be referred.

Scope of
duties.

8. The Committee shall be authorized to discuss and record its opinion on the following subjects:—

- (1) Alterations in the time table of passenger services.
- (2) Alterations in rates and fares, and changes of goods classification.
- (3) Proposals in regard to new projects and extensions.
- (4) Proposals in regard to new rolling stock.
- (5) Any matters affecting the general public interest or convenience.

Any member of the Committee shall be at liberty to suggest subjects for discussion, unless inadmissible under paragraph 7, but the Chairman may rule out any subject for reasons which should be explained at the first meeting after the ruling is given.

9. A copy of the minutes of meetings shall be furnished to each member of the Committee, to the Railway Board, and to the Board of Directors of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company.

If in any case the Chairman decides that he is unable to follow the advice of the majority of the Committee he shall bring the matter to notice of the Railway Board, and of the Board of Directors of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company, when forwarding the minutes of meeting for their perusal.

10. The Chairman shall furnish the members of the Committee with the regular periodical return of traffic, and such other information in regard to the traffic of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway as may from time to time be available, and with which they may desire to be supplied.

11. No action shall be taken on any representation of the Committee without the approval of the Agent, unless the Board of Directors of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company shall in any case otherwise direct. The Agent, shall, however, carefully consider all such representations, and so far as he may find them in conformity with the

15th December 1923]

general instructions of his Board and likely to be beneficial to the undertaking, and to serve the public convenience, he shall endeavour to give effect to them.

12. The Committee shall bear in mind, that while they are invited to act in consultation with the Agent of the Railway Administration with a view to extend the facilities for traffic on the railway, and increase the convenience offered to the public, they are also required to give due weight to the responsibility which rests on the Administration of the Railway to respect the legitimate interest of the Government of India and the Railway Company in maintaining the revenue.

13. A fee of Rs. 32 will be paid to every non-official member of the Committee, other than the Chairman or any Railway member, for each meeting of the Committee at which a quorum is present and business is transacted. Remuneration.

A pass over the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway and actual fares over other Railways will be granted to members of the Committee residing out of Madras when attending meetings.

C. L. MAGNIAC, Brig.-Gen.,
Agent



